

# Full accord on Rhodesia transition at London talks

The London conference on Rhodesia achieved a breakthrough yesterday with an agreement on the transition to independence. It gives the Patriotic Front guerrilla forces the same standing as the Rhodesian Army, under the authority of the British Governor. Today the conference begins to negotiate ceasefire arrangements.

## Lord Carrington sees ceasefire obstacles

By David Spaxier

Diplomatic Correspondent

Complete agreement was reached at the Lancaster House constitutional conference in London yesterday on the key issue of transitional arrangements in Zimbabwe Rhodesia before the country achieves its long-awaited independence.

Lord Carrington, the conference chairman, said that what he thought the ceasefire, which is the next item to be negotiated, should last 10 days or so.

The will come as a shock to the Patriotic Front guerrillas, which has been speaking in terms of two to four months. This will be the principal topic of the final phase of the negotiations, which open today.

In a BBC television interview, Lord Carrington said he hoped to wind up the conference extremely quickly. He did not underestimate the difficulties ahead: there were problems in dealing with two types of armies, the Rhodesian regulars and two guerrilla armies. The issues to be discussed include separation of the forces and monitoring arrangements.

He added that several names were under consideration for the post of British Governor, but declined to say when he would announce the appointment.

British troops would be going to Zimbabwe Rhodesia as "observers" he said, not in a fighting role. He said that the guerrillas would carry a "light" self-defence. Their job was to observe the ceasefire.

The agreement came after several hours of intense negotiation, continuing into the early hours of yesterday morning, when the Patriotic Front accepted the British proposals.

In full, with addition of an important rider designed to safeguard the status of its own forces.

The guerrillas will be accorded the same standing, under the authority of the Governor, as the existing Rhodesian army.

Although the ceasefire issue is likely to prove as difficult as not more so—the transitional arrangements, all parties in the conference now expect a successful conclusion.

The new provision, to be added to Paragraph 13 of the British proposals, was set out in a brief exchange between Mr Robert Mugabe and Lord Carrington in the plenary session yesterday.

It simply confirms that the Patriotic Front forces will be under the authority of the Governor, and that the guerrilla forces will be required to comply with the Governor's directions.

As it stands at present, Paragraph 13 states that the Governor will have executive and legislative authority acting according to the instructions of the British Government.

Legislative authority will not be exercised by any other body. "Executive authority will be vested in the Governor, and all public officers and authorities in Rhodesia, including the Civil Service, the police and the defence forces, will be required to comply with the Governor's directions."

Saluting the agreement as an historic occasion, Mr Eddison Zvobgo, one of the Patriotic Front spokesmen, said that the addition to the text gave its forces the recognition which it had always regarded as the make-or-break issue.

Instead of being "guerrillas" or even "terrorists", they would have legal status in the country, as soon as the Governor arrived in Salisbury, in the task of maintaining the ceasefire.

The Salisbury delegation, while recording an objection to President Kaunda of Zambia having any part in the proceedings, do not regard the proposal as a "face-saving tactic". The British proposals "We are happy the Patriotic Front finally accepted the proposals and only regret that it took them so long," a spokesman said.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa is expected to return to Salisbury this week.

Lord Carrington's proposal of two months for the election campaign "He said: 'Beginning when the ceasefire comes into effect, was endorsed in yesterday's agreement.'

The Patriotic Front regards the ceasefire as a "process", not an event which could be achieved by waving a magic wand, the Front spokesman said. There were standing armies, local armies and other forces running wild.

He anticipated a huge influx of refugees coming back to Rhodesia, numbering perhaps half a million to a million people, and this would be a long process.

The Patriotic Front feels confident it will win the coming elections. Mr Zvobgo said the Front's insistence on giving land to the people was a most important issue to its supporters.

"We have all the cards and they (the present regime) have none. They are going to lose and lose miserably."

Nicholas Ashford writes from Salisbury: Mr Edward Maszimana, the Acting Prime Minister, issued a statement here describing the decision to put the Patriotic Front forces under the Governor's authority as a "face-saving tactic" to allow the Front to sell the agreement to its supporters.

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## Queen's art adviser stripped of title after Mrs Thatcher reveals the identity of the 'Fourth Man' in spy ring

### Professor Blunt named as spy

By Stewart Tendler

and Ian Bradley

The Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, yesterday named Sir Anthony Blunt, former security service officer and personal adviser on art to the sovereign, as the "Fourth Man" in the Philby affair.

Minutes after Mrs Thatcher issued a written answer in the Commons, putting an end to several weeks of speculation about his role in the affair, Buckingham Palace announced that his knighthood would be cancelled and annulled today.

The statement was issued in answer to a question tabled by Mr Edward Leathley, MP for Hartlepool, and disclosed that suspicions about Professor Blunt were first raised in 1951 in the aftermath of the defection by Burgess and Maclean. Thirteen years later he confessed his role as a Soviet "talent-spotter" and agent in return for immunity from prosecution.

Lord Home of the Hirsel, who was Prime Minister at the time when Professor Blunt made his confession, told *The Times* last night that he was not aware of the confession or even of the fact that the professor was under suspicion. "I was not told; I did not know," he said.

Ministers admitted yesterday that Professor Blunt's legal advisers had been informed of the defection of Burgess and Maclean. The Prime Minister was to make a statement, though they were not given full details of the confession.

Professor Blunt was believed to be in hiding somewhere in the Mediterranean yesterday as Mrs Thatcher, drawing on M15 files, disclosed that the celebrated art historian who became *Surveyor of the King's Pictures* in 1945 was recruited by the Russians at Cambridge in the 1930s.

At the time he was a fellow of Trinity College and a close friend of Guy Burgess. In the second world war he served as an officer in M15 between 1940 and 1945. Inquiries were made before he joined and he was judged a fit person although the authorities were aware he held Marxist views at Cambridge.

In 1951, however, his name emerged in investigations after the defection of Burgess and Maclean. The security service was told that Burgess had admitted working for Comintern and named Blunt as a source.

M15 had no other evidence against Professor Blunt, Mrs Thatcher said, and he denied the allegations. The investigation was still suspicious and interviewed him 11 times without securing a confession.

Mrs Thatcher said it was also thought important to get his cooperation in the investigation which continued in the wake of Burgess, Maclean and Philby. Accordingly the Attorney General of the day authorized the offer of immunity to Professor Blunt if he confessed.

He admitted he had become an agent of Russian intelligence and talent spotted for them at Cambridge in the 1930s. While a member of M15 he passed on information and in 1951 he used his old contact in the Russian intelligence service to assist in the arrangements for the defection of Burgess and Maclean.

During and after the confession Professor Blunt gave "useful" information. Sir Michael Adeane, the Queen's Private Secretary, was told in April, 1964, about the confession and the immunity. Professor Blunt was not required to resign his royal appointment which was unpaid.

The appointment did not involve any classified or confidential material and the security authorities thought it desirable not to put at risk his cooperation.



Professor Blunt: Confessed in exchange for immunity.

Mrs Thatcher said the decision to offer immunity was taken because intensive investigations over 13 years had failed to produce evidence for a charge. "Successive Attorneys General in 1973, June, 1974, and June, 1979, have agreed that, having regard to the immunity granted in order to obtain the confession which has always been and still is the only firm evidence against Blunt, there are no grounds on which criminal proceedings could be instituted."

Full though Mrs Thatcher's statement was it nonetheless left many questions outstanding. These must include:

1. Why was Professor Blunt allowed to stay on in the Queen's service after 1964?
2. What was the nature of the new information that provoked his confession?
3. What kind of material did he pass to the Russians as a member of M15 from 1940 to 1945?
4. Why did the Government of the day not tell Buckingham Palace about their suspicions and interrogations between 1951 and 1964?
5. How did he help Russian intelligence to get Burgess and Maclean out of Britain?
6. What did he do for the Russians between 1945 and 1951?
7. Whom did he implicate while helping M15?
8. How did this case differ from the case of George Blake, where the evidence against the Soviet spy was based on his confession?

An intelligence source said last night there could be no reason for allowing Professor Blunt to remain in the royal service after 1951. He added that as a senior member of M15 Professor Blunt had access to information of great value to the Soviet Union.

Mr Andrew Boyle, whose book *The Climate of Treason*, published ten days ago, led to yesterday's announcement by the Prime Minister, said last night that he had known Professor Blunt was the "Fourth Man" for three years.

He said that most of his information had come from the United States. "The Americans had a shrewd idea of what was going on and they publish a lot more than we do. I used the 1,000-word dossier on Philby, Burgess and Maclean over there."

Mr Boyle also said that he knew the names of up to 25 other people who were "accessories to the conspiracy". He said that all those people were known to the authorities. Some have died but quite a few are still around. I can think of half a dozen who are walking free."

At a press conference given by the publishers of his book, Hutchinson's, Mr Boyle said: "I think Blunt did quite a bit of harm and that lives have been lost because of him."

Thatcher statement, page 2 Parliamentary report, page 3 Leading article, page 13

## Mortgages and overdrafts set to bear the brunt of savage rise in interest rates

By John Whitmore

Financial Correspondent

The Government yesterday ordered a savage rise in interest rates in an attempt to bring the growth in the money supply under control and to force its battle against inflation.

The Bank of England's Minimum Lending Rate, the key to the interest rate structure, was raised from 12 per cent to an unprecedented 17 per cent, and all major banks seem certain to announce substantial increases in the cost of overdrafts and other forms of borrowing soon after they open their doors for business today.

As well as raising interest rates, the Government also extended the present "corset" controls on the banking system for a further six months. It will also be raising an additional £700m in the current financial year from the oil companies by advancing payments of Petroleum Revenue Tax in order to meet its target of a Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) of no more than £8,300m.

The main thrust of the Government's measures are, however, directed against private sector borrowing and the effects are going to be painful. Overdraft rates for leading industrial companies look set to rise to around 18 per cent. For personal borrowers, the rates will move to 20 per cent or more. The cost of personal loans and credit cards is also likely to rise.

The prospects also look grim for house-buyers. Mortgage rates are already due to rise to 12½ per cent in January and the building societies will be under considerable pressure to

Leading article

Warning to banks

Financial Editor

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## HOME NEWS

## Miners should prepare for industrial action on pay, Mr Scargill says

From Ronald Kershaw  
Barnsley

Britain's 240,000 miners were called upon yesterday to reject the National Coal Board's 20 per cent final pay offer, stick out for their full claim for between 30 and 65 per cent increase and vote for industrial action if necessary.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the militant Yorkshire miners' president, issued a statement from his headquarters in Barnsley telling miners: "If MPs can award themselves 70 per cent wage increases, there is no reason why the full claim of the miners should not be considered."

The miners' negotiators rejected the 20 per cent offer at talks with the board on Tuesday.

Mr Scargill, probably referring to suggestions for some National Union of Mineworkers leaders that a 25 per cent increase would have been acceptable, said yesterday: "A number of misleading statements have been issued from various quarters outlining what the offer means and how the miners should respond. The Coal Board has offered an increase in wages from next March with a small interim payment in January-February. To accept this would be tantamount to negotiating a decrease in the living standards of miners."

Mr Scargill said that in the past few months, when miners had accepted a 9.1 per cent increase, in other sectors increases equivalent to the miners' full claim had been

agreed. "These range from 30 per cent to 70 per cent and include workers in the energy field, the TV industry and MPs," he said.

"I would urge every miner to reject the offer of the NCB and accept no less than the full claim agreed at our annual conference. If the claim was justified at the time of our conference, it is more than justified now, in the light of rocketing prices and spiralling inflation. It is a basic claim for industrial action. I would urge all miners to support any industrial action that may be necessary to win a just claim."

The board's offer would have given coal face workers a basic rate of £101.94 a week and surface workers £73.70, although production bonuses would have made earnings substantially higher.

Left attacked: The North Staffordshire representative on the NUM negotiating team in the national pay talks yesterday attacked left-wing militants within the union.

Mr Roy Orrey, general secretary of the union's power group, said on his return from talks in London that he was sick to death of the outrageous demands of a section of the NUM.

"Even if they were to make an offer within 1 per cent of our claim, I am certain there are those within our negotiating team who would have voted against it in any case. I am satisfied that their intention at all times is to endeavour to create disruption and get the men on strike."

## Bill to free long bus routes from licensing

By Our Transport Correspondent

More competition in bus services and cheaper fares next year are expected as a result of the new Transport Bill presented to Parliament yesterday. It also excludes car-sharing from licensing restrictions.

The Bill makes something of a bonfire of the existing controls introduced more than 50 years ago on bus services, freeing inter-city, express, and stage services over 30 miles from licensing altogether.

Safety will not be affected. Mr Norman Macintyre, Minister of Transport, said yesterday. The new operators, who it is hoped will compete with existing services, will have to maintain the same safety standards.

Elsewhere, the burden of proof that a new service will be in the public interest will lie with the existing operator. Trial areas will be established by ministerial order when bus licensing is suspended altogether.

## Ministry plan to cut direct labour upsets big union

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

The Transport and General Workers' Union is considering protest action over government proposals to hive off to the private sector a large part of the work done by industrial civil servants in the Department of the Environment.

The department has already told unions that it wants to run down its directly employed manual labour force of 18,000 by 20 to 30 per cent in the next three years with the eventual aim of ending it.

It has proposed to transfer from the public sector to private industry of the department carrying out statutory testing of heavy goods vehicles, and of the Hydraulic Research Association. It also intends to reduce maintenance of ancient monuments. The cut of 80 manual workers in that department would, according to an official letter of the unions, be achieved without seriously affecting maintenance standards.

Most cuts are expected to come from putting out to contract functions such as maintenance, cleaning, and electrical work at present done by industrial civil servants. The department has told the unions that it hopes to achieve the cuts through natural wastage and redeployment.

Maintenance workers who have to be vetted for sensitive security in the Ministry of Defence or the Services should be exempt from the cuts.

Mr Michael Martin, national secretary of the public services group of the Transport and General Workers' Union, accused the Government of abandoning the policy of putting work out to contract only where it was cost effective.

"This work will still have to be done," he said. "It will have to be done by contractors, in many cases at higher costs."

The centre, which is based in Manchester and has a government grant this year of £312,000, is the second educational "quango" to be wound up; the first was the Youth Service Forum. The centre has a staff of 22.

## Productivity and wages plan put to rail unions

By Our Labour Reporter

An outline of proposals to improve railway productivity in exchange for pay increases was presented by the British Railways Board to the three railway unions last night.

The five-page document records as a "first priority" the need to reduce hours worked without a reduction in average earnings and without an increase in the work-force. It comes after the tabling by the biggest rail union of a 300m set of proposals on productivity and pay.

The board is seeking greater flexibility in freight services, reduced labour turnover and absenteeism in train operations; introduction of new technology, such as radio links between locomotives and signal boxes; removal of demarcations in train manning and "manning trains only, but precisely, to cover responsibilities and the work to be done."

The board says that revenue generated by savings cannot be spent wholly on improved pay, but must in part be used to support investment vital to the industry.

More specifically it wants a new approach to rostering, with Saturdays and Sundays as normal shift days in areas where weekend working is customary, an end to union restrictions on promotion, training and redundancies; and the phasing of annual holidays to minimize the amount of relief cover and rest-day working.

It also says that it wants to replace the traditional guards and conductor guards with grades called train conductor and trainman and to "emphasize the customer relations role of on-train staff."

It is also to investigate how much track relaying work can be done on weekdays to improve revenue-earning at the weekend. Apart from radio links, the board envisages remote-control locomotive operation on "merry-go-round services" at power stations.

The National Union of Railwaymen, which is seeking a new £60 to £100 a week pay structure, has yet to agree with the Association of Societies of Railwaymen Engineers and Firemen on how the fruits of increased productivity should be distributed.

Our Transport Correspondent writes: Rail fares are to go up by about a fifth in January, British Rail confirmed yesterday.

South-east commuters will on average pay slightly more, about 22½ per cent, and other services marginally less. On some short journeys the rise will be more than a quarter to bring fares into line with London Transport rises.

It is the largest single increase imposed by British Rail, although there was an increase of a half in three stages in 1975. There was no guarantee against an additional increase during next year, British Rail said yesterday.

That would depend on inflation and other increases in railway costs. Fares last went up by nine per cent in January this year. An interim rise of about 10 per cent in the summer was considered and rejected, in the hope of gaining traffic at a time of rising petrol prices.

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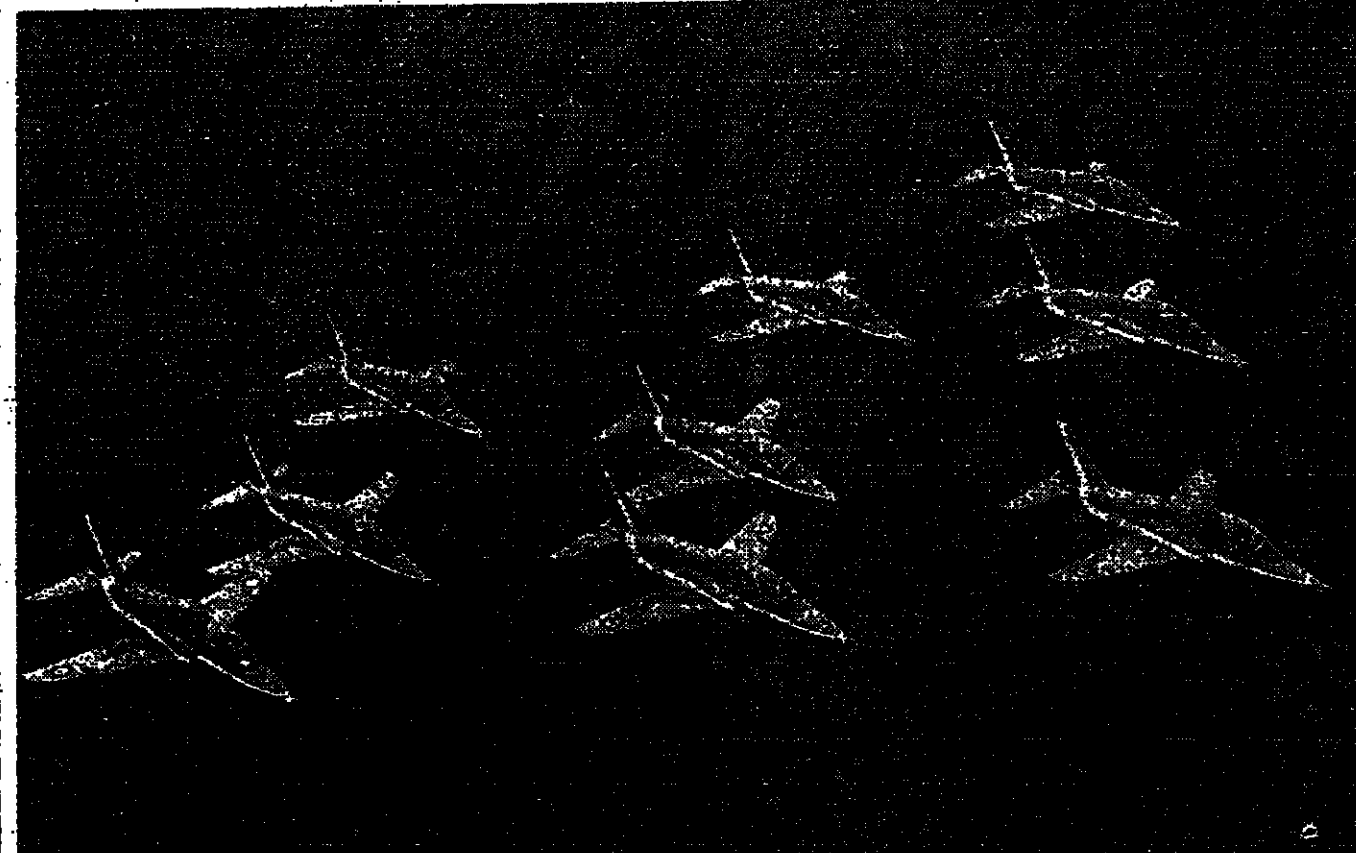
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The Red Arrows, the RAF's aerobatic team, making their debut over Gloucestershire yesterday in Hawk aircraft. Hawks are bigger, but use less fuel than their Gnat predecessors.

## Recruitment is higher after forces' pay rise

By Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

Recruiting for the Armed Forces improved last summer after two big pay rises. The services will have to do better still, however, to meet their manpower targets this year.

The number of sailors leaving the Royal Navy remained high during the July-September quarter, despite a 2½ per cent pay rise. The number of those applying to leave early. As a result, the strength of the Navy declined by 1,100 between March 31 and September 30.

Overall manpower in the forces was 700 lower than on September 30 last year, although recruiting was up by 14 per cent.

The Ministry of Defence, counting upon the quarterly figures, which were published, the current upward trends continued "the numbers recruited by the end of the financial year will still fall short of requirements." The July-September quarter includes the main annual intake of junior servicemen.

Mr Butler said farmers also wanted a rise early next month in the price of milk. They would not lead inevitably to a significant rise in the retail price of milk.

Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, said after a meeting of the policy-making committee: "Members were in a very tough mood, and I have been instructed to ask for immediate action."

They wanted a 12 per cent devaluation next month in the ground, with which 250 prices are expressed in sterling. If allowed, it would be the largest devaluation since Britain joined the Community, and would increase shop prices of many foods.

The sale of Russian works of art made £260,752, with 13 per cent unsold. The high unsold percentage reflected two expensive items which failed to sell. The sale, along with the other two, was a record of tensely competitive bidding.

The message seems to be that all that glitters, everything made of gold, hardstones or jewels, is desirable; the first two second-hand paintings of the same pattern with a total of £3,315,000 and 8 per cent unsold.

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## 'Order to move oxygen hoses in ship not given'

Shipworkers were not told by their supervisor to remove potentially lethal oxygen hoses after they had finished work; it was alleged at York Crown Court yesterday. That mistake could have cost the lives of eight men who died in a blaze below deck in a new destroyer being fitted out at Swan Hunter's Newcastle shipyard at Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, in September, 1976, it was added.

Mr Harold Harvey, a Swan Hunter supervisor engaged in outfitting work on the missile destroyer, HMS Glasgow, where the men died, said he had given the order to remove the hoses a year before the fire. It was an absolute rule that oxygen hoses had to be disconnected from the main manifold on the ship's deck at sea and stopping times, and particularly at the end of the day's work. He did not give any instructions about removing the hoses to a safe, well-ventilated place, once they had been disconnected.

The practice was to shut off the supply on the open top deck, remove the gauges, and hang the connecting end over the ship's rail. The actual cutting heads on the pipes and the gauges were returned to the stores.

He admitted that the hoses were left dangling from the top deck through to the working areas in lower decks because he had not given any instructions to the men to coil them and take them to a well-ventilated place.

Swan Hunter deny six charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act, but their subcontractors, Telemeter Industries Ltd, who employed the victims, have admitted three similar charges.

The trial continues today.

## Secrets Bill 'a nightmare for journalists'

Mr Kenneth Morgan, director designate of the Press Council, yesterday described the new Protection of Official Secrets Bill as "a nightmare for journalists."

Mr Morgan said the bill would be a "nightmare for journalists" because it would require them to disclose the sources of their information, and to provide evidence of the truth of their statements.

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## Dispute may stop colour magazine's first issue

By Alan Hamilton

Publication of the first issue of the London Evening News Colour magazine is being threatened by an industrial dispute in the newspaper's composing room.

Print workers are to meet today to decide whether to resume normal working and allow production of the paper, and the distribution of its new supplement, to proceed.

The 48-page magazine, to be distributed free with the paper, is intended as an occasional venture, produced only when there is enough colour advertising to warrant it. Eleven issues are planned in the first six months, four before Christmas.

Evening News compositors, all members of the National Graphical Association, yesterday demanded a lump sum payment into their chapel (office branch) pool for each page of the new magazine, although it has already been printed, at the Woodway Weynt printing plant at Barnbury, Oxfordshire.

The sum demanded as compensation for the first issue was about £7,000.

When, yesterday afternoon, compositors refused to prepare advance copy for today's edition of the main newspaper, the management of Associated Newspapers, proprietors of the News, told them they had dismissed themselves. National officials of the NGA ordered the men to return to normal working.

One of the principal reasons for launching the magazine was to remove the printing of colour advertisements, with all its attendant difficulties, from the paper's composing room.

Helped by the lengthy independent television strike, the News is in considerable demand for colour advertising space, and is keen to encourage the trend to help to wipe out its operating losses.

In spite of the emergence of Sir James Goldsmith's *News* magazine, and the imminent reappearance of *Sunday Times* Colour Magazine, the *Evening News* believes there is scope for a colour advertising medium covering only London at rates, starting at £500 a 300-line page, well below the national colour media. The circulation of the *News* is about 500,000 copies a day.

The trial continues today.

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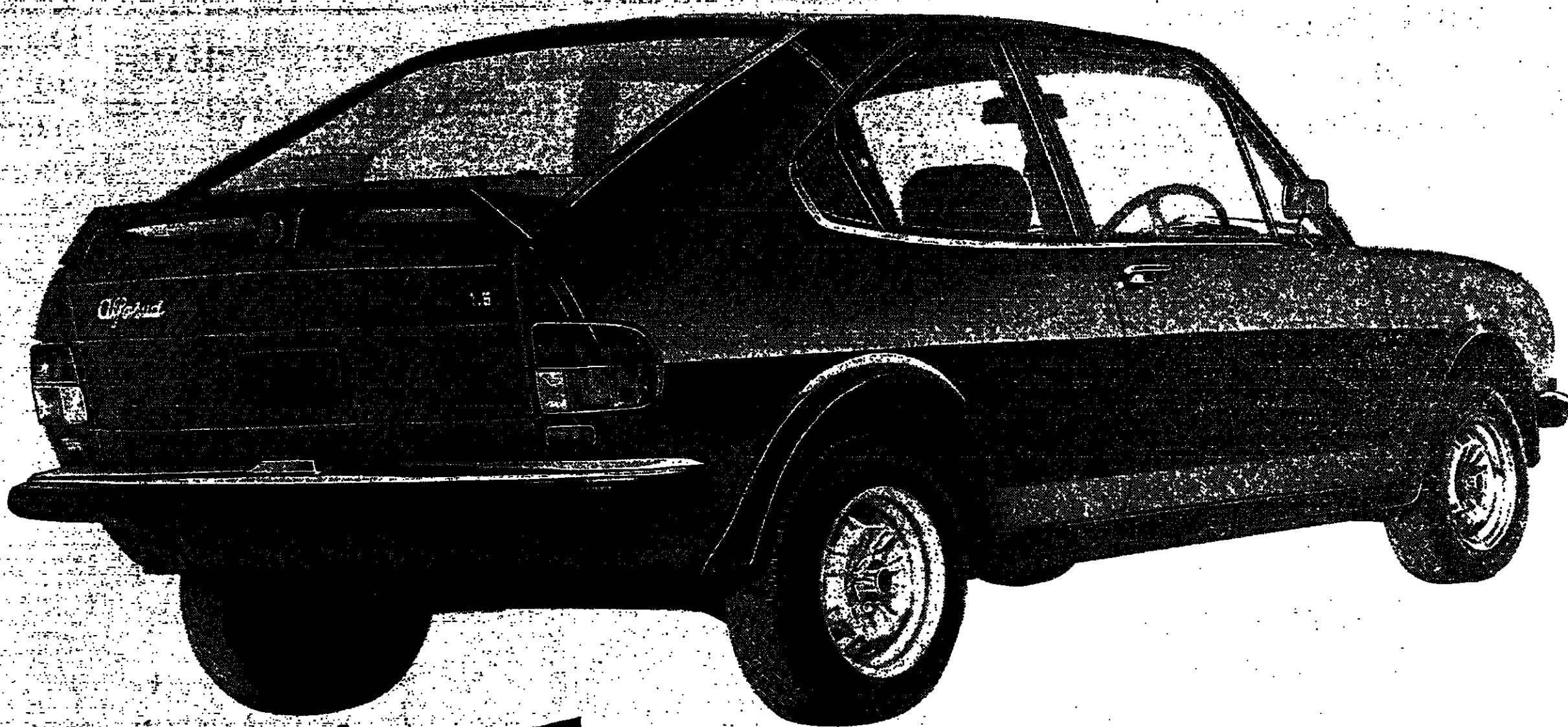
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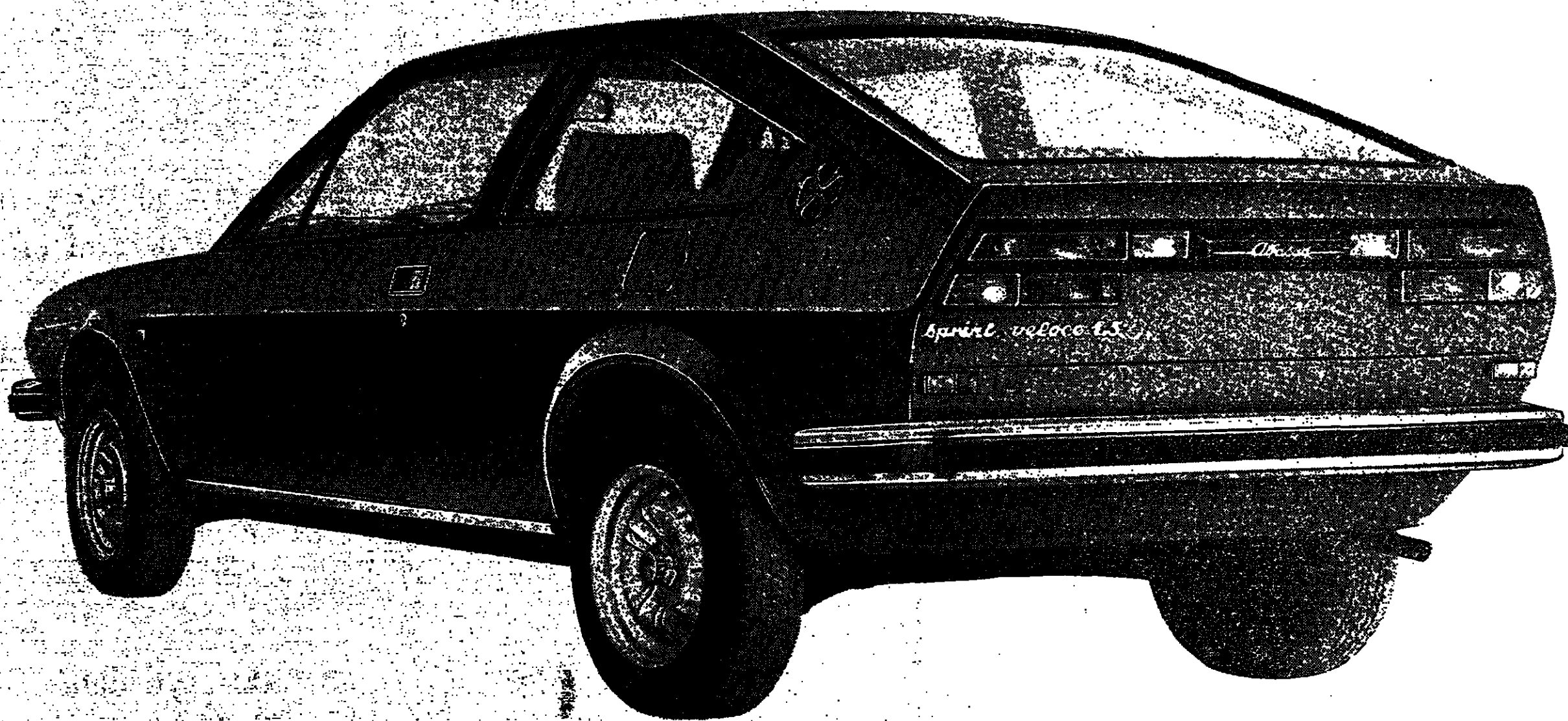
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# A clean pair



# of heels.

Choosing your Alfesud from the racy pair pictured here depends very much on your point of view.

For the person interested in travelling fast, economically and relatively discreetly, may we suggest the car up top?

This is the 1.5 ti. Nought to sixty in ten point nine, a top speed of 106<sup>†</sup> and 42.8\* mpg at an admittedly uncharacteristic steady 56 mph.

You're also looking at sufficient room for four adults to tour the continent in comfort; a cavernous boot; and, according to all the tests we've read, some of the best handling and roadholding of any saloon car in the world.

If, however, all thoughts of discretion can be thrown to the wind, we unhesitatingly recommend the car below. Our new Sprint Veloce, 1.5.

From its four halogen headlights to its wide opening tailgate it is, we think you'll agree, one of the prettiest cars

that ever made a pedestrian wish he wasn't.

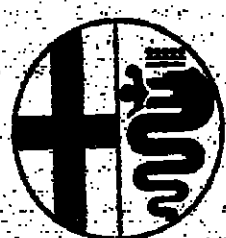
Under the bonnet, a pair of twin choke carburettors plus other subtleties ease the power up to 95 bhp, and the top speed to a whisker short of 110<sup>†</sup>.

You'll also find a luxurious interior, room for four; and Alfaplus.

The latter covers all new Alfes, and means the price at the bottom of this page is the on-the-road price.

It also means 12 months unlimited mileage guarantee, and free routine service parts for your first 24,000 miles of Alfesud motoring. And your nearest Alfa dealer is no further than Yellow Pages.

Decided yet?



## Alfa Romeo



## HOME NEWS

## Family of Blair Peach fail in court plea to have inquest heard before a jury

By Penny Symon

The family of Mr Blair Peach, aged 35, the New Zealand teacher who died after being hit on the head during a demonstration in South London, in April, failed yesterday in their attempt to have his inquest heard before a jury.

Mr John Mortimer, QC, who appeared in the High Court on behalf of the family, told Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, and Mr Justice Griffiths that there was a considerable body of evidence which gave reasons to suspect that Mr Peach had been hit by a police officer using an article heavier than the regulation truncheon.

"The medical evidence points to the possibility that the officer used a weighted rubber club on a piece of hosepipe filled with shot," Mr Mortimer said. "Mr Peach died from a single heavy blow from a weighty, but malleable, instrument without a hard edge. If there is reason to sus-

pect that the death occurred of a demonstration as a result of being hit by a police officer using a truncheon, or more probably a weapon of greater severity, then it is a matter which could affect public safety."

Under the Coroners (Amendment) Act, 1926, a coroner can summon a jury if he has reason to suppose that death occurred in circumstances, the continuance or possible recurrence of which, is prejudicial to the health or safety of the public.

Mr Mortimer said: "If the police are using some sort of weapon which might prove fatal in the control of political demonstrations, then that is a situation which could affect public safety." He submitted that that section of the Act, and was a matter for a jury.

Lord Widgery ruled that the circumstances surrounding Mr Peach's death did not come within the wording of the Act. Mr Justice Griffiths agreed.

Mr Simon Brown, Dr Burton's counsel, told the court that under the Act, the coroner could empanel a jury if he considered that the deceased died by murder or manslaughter. But that section had been repealed. If there was a possibility that a police officer had committed murder, either by excessive violence, or with the use of a lethal weapon, then it would have fallen within the scope of that section, and not the one which Mr Mortimer had argued on.

Lord Widgery ruled that the circumstances surrounding Mr Peach's death did not come within the wording of the Act. Mr Justice Griffiths agreed.

## Home Office thinks again about girl's deportation

By Craig Seaton

The Home Office said yesterday that it is reconsidering a deportation order on Ayesha Khatun, aged seven, a Bangladeshi girl living in Oxford, whose plight has angered many parents and teachers in the town and has led to a growing campaign for her to be allowed to stay in Britain.

She came to Britain without an entry certificate in July to live with her uncle, a United Kingdom citizen, and his wife, who adopted her according to Bangladeshi law and brought her to the country. Her mother died five years ago and her natural father, an itinerant priest in Bangladesh, signed an affidavit waiving all legal rights to his daughter.

Since she arrived, the girl has lived with her adoptive parents, at their Oxford restaurant and attends a local school. Earlier this month the Home Office ordered her to leave Britain for Bangladesh on November 10, but the order was postponed while the matter was taken up by Mr John Oxford.

Mr and Mrs Rojib received a further order for the girl to be taken to the immigration office at Heathrow tomorrow, but the Home Office said yesterday that the matter was still being considered and a final decision on her future would probably be taken next week.

Teachers at the girl's school and local parents organized a campaign, protesting that there being no way to look after her in Bangladesh, and that she would suffer emotionally if removed from Mr and Mrs Rojib.

The teachers at St Barnabas Church of England school, yesterday said the Home Office of heartlessness and



Ayesha Khatun, aged seven, who awaits final decision on deportation.

pleaded with Mr. Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, to allow her to stay and become a British citizen.

Mr Rojib, who has lived in Britain since 1962, said yesterday that the girl was terrified at the prospect of returning to Bangladesh and was very confused.

## Indian marriage system is explained to Mr Whitelaw

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Two years ago, Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, was told by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, that the Indian marriage system was different from the British one.

She said the government does not understand the mechanics of an Indian arranged marriage, and cites her own experience.

Miss Patel, who lives in Bloomsbury, London, recently stayed for six months with her father in India, when he advocated that she marry within her own caste. One of her brothers is Mr Pratul Patel, a campaigner on immigration since the 1960s.

"I was introduced to five boys and I was given the freedom to see them alone (one, two, three or as many times as I wished)," says Miss Patel. "The final decision was left

entirely up to me, with the rest of the family only volunteering their views."

"In the event, I did not decide to marry any of them, though I am still in correspondence with one of them. Suppose I do decide to marry him in the future, what will my position be? I have no idea."

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## Official Solicitor stays out of lead peril case

By a Staff Reporter

The Official Solicitor has decided not to intervene in the case of a woman who has been charged with the death of her husband, a case which has caused a major scandal in the legal world.

In the Mayor's and City of London Court last month, Judge G. M. Turner, the Official Solicitor, for a decision on how the proceedings should be conducted. Mr Turner says he will take no action.

The judge has ruled that, with evidence that lead is a potential source of danger to young children, the actions for negligence against the oil company in which the child died, added that with regard to claim against Associated Oils, a manufacturer of lead, added that there was no case to answer.

Mr Nicholas Albery, of West London, father of one of the children, is appealing against that decision.

His wife, Mrs. Albery, who is a nurse, is appealing against that decision.

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## Traps laid for immigrants, woman alleges

By our Home Affairs Correspondent

A former immigration officer says in *Spare Rib*, the women's liberation magazine, that she had headed in her notice in protest at the treatment of black people.

Immigration was the one area of British law where people were treated as enemy until proved innocent, Miss Anne Lowe says. "We were trained in interviewing techniques designed to lay traps for passengers."

Immigration officers teaching them gave personal opinions such as "always treat an Indian with more suspicion than an American" or "never trust an Algerian".

She alleges: "If a black Nigerian businessman appeared in front of your immigration desk, you were expected to take far longer examining him than you would the equivalent white American businessman, however genuine he appeared."

The assumption was that no white American businessman would want to settle illegally in this country.

The Home Office said yesterday: "We are familiar with the views of Miss Lowe. We are satisfied that the immigration service carries out a difficult job efficiently and fairly."

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## New Labour threat to independent schools

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Proposals to make independent school pupils ineligible for a student grant, when they go on to Government-funded higher education, have been drawn up in the Labour Party. That could seriously threaten the future of independent schools.

The Labour Party has long proposed to abolish, or nationalise, all independent schools. It has never gone further than that, partly because it realises that such a move would provoke fierce public resistance, and partly because of the incorporating more than 400,000 independent school pupils in the state system.

Now Mrs. Kinnock, Opposition spokesman on education, believes he has found a better way to attack independent schools. It would save public money and, he believes,

attract substantial support particularly when feeling is running high about the Government's plans to spend £250m subsidising pupils at private schools.

Under Mr. Kinnock's proposals, only pupils who had attended a maintained school for five years before going into higher education would be eligible for a mandatory student grant.

Students taking a first degree or who are on another degree have their tuition fees, amounting this year to £595, paid. They are also eligible for a maintenance grant of up to £1,485 a year depending on personal income.

Mr. Kinnock has announced that a future Labour Government would immediately introduce legislation to end the Government's assisted-places scheme at independent schools.

## £12.5m plea for silicon chip learning

By our Education Correspondent

A plea to the Government to release the £12.5m pledged by the Department of Education in micro-electronics was made yesterday by Professor Lewis Elton, of the Institute for Educational Technology, Surrey University. "We must spend a little now in order to save a great deal later," he said.

Speaking at a one-day conference in London on micro-electronics and education, organised by the Council for Educational Advances, Professor Elton said that the silicon chip was going to cause a revolutionary change which within a few years would have enormous consequences for society, health, patterns of employment and unemployment, and education.

Just before the last general election, the Labour Government declared that "the development of micro-electronics is of major importance to our industrial future."

To that end the Labour Government proposed to spend about £100m on the development of micro-electronics, and £2.5m a year was to be channelled through the Department of Education and Science over the next five years.

Although the Conservative Government was pouring money into the development of micro-electronics, no money had been put into the education sector, yet the need was immense.

## Education cuts are falling short

By Lucy Hedges

Education Correspondent

Councils are cutting back on their education budgets this year, a survey of all 105 local authorities in England and Wales has disclosed.

The survey, which appears in *The Times Educational Supplement*, republished today, suggests that local authorities are deferring cuts for the year 1979-80. That could mean some councils will have to cut heavily next year or make big cuts in 1980-81.

Salaries are expected to be £98.7m instead of £250m, a 1.5 per cent cut for this financial year, half the amount Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asked for in his Budget speech.

The three biggest cuts have been made by Avon (3.3 per cent), Cheshire (3.7 per cent) and Doncaster (4.7 per cent)—all more than the average 3 per cent asked for. Eighteen authorities in England and Wales and six in Scotland have made no cuts. The London Borough of Newham said it was improper to cut in a deprived area.

The cuts are affecting adult education and school books and equipment, particularly badly. The survey found 29 authorities in which fees for adult classes had been raised. The books and equipment budget has been cut by 30 per cent in 10 out of 105 schools, by 20 per cent in 10, and by 10 per cent in 10.

## NUT demands 'true' pay comparability study

By our Education Correspondent

A police constable recruiting 22 or over, earns 50 per cent more than a non-graduate teacher, but the NUT, the teachers' union, says that the more money is paid to teachers over the past five years than to any other group of employees in the public sector, let alone the private sector, and that furthermore the teachers' job has become much more onerous and stressful since 1974.

The teachers' employers, the local education authorities, in their submission to Clegg, say that while they accept the arithmetical accuracy of the teachers' calculations, they do not accept their arguments that teachers' salaries should be updated to the levels suggested by the Houghton report in 1974.

Those in similar jobs since April, 1974.

The NUT which represents more than half of all serving teachers, contends that the NUT's demands for a pay study are more realistic to teachers over the past five years than to any other group of employees in the public sector, let alone the private sector, and that furthermore the teachers' job has become much more onerous and stressful since 1974.

Those are among points made by the National Union of Teachers (NUT) in its submission, published today, to the Clegg Commission on Pay Comparability.

The 485,000 teachers in England and Wales are seeking a pay increase of at least 39 per cent, which they say is needed to make up for their salary erosion when compared with

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## Petition for audit of 'profligate' council

By Ian Bradley

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, is to be petitioned to call for an extraordinary audit of the accounts of Lambeth Borough Council, in London.

The council, which is Labour controlled, has refused to implement a 13m reduction in spending demanded by the Government.

The petition will be presented by Streatham Ratepayers Association, Streatham Chamber of Trade and the Conservative Group in the council.

Mr Robin Pitt, the Conservative leader, said that he hoped Mr Heseltine would receive the petition next week and that the results of the extraordinary audit would be published and made widely available to ratepayers to show "the utter profligacy of the council".

Among the aspects of council spending which the petition mentions are the provision of free tennis lessons for adults and children, including professional instruction, and the provision of all equipment, the distribution of 180,000 free leaflets a year on such subjects as the care of house plants and the renovation of pine furniture, and the provision of a car for children every three years costing £1,090 an issue.

Mr Pitt said: "There has already been a highly critical district auditor's report and the situation has since got worse. The staff in the consumer services department have been reduced by 362 in April, 1978, to 362 last April."

The council runs three permanent consumer advice centres, a mobile caravan and a consumer education bus at a cost of £235,000 a year. That has largely been met by a Government subsidy, but from April next there will be no subsidy and the burden will fall on the ratepayers.

The petition will point out that Lambeth has more than 4,000 empty properties, more than in any other London borough. Yet £1m a year is spent on providing bed and breakfast for 360 homeless families.

Rent arrears in the borough increased from £2,460,000 in 1977-78 to £3,261,817 between April and September last, although rents have been frozen for the past three years and the average rent is £7 a week.

Mr William Shelton, Conservative MP for Lambeth, in a Commons earlier this month raised the subject of Lambeth's free tennis lessons. Yesterday he said that he regarded the council as "wildly spendthrift and profligate."

He said the council had spent £5,000 of ratepayers' money on organising a demonstration march in protest against the Government's cuts. There was a 39 per cent rate increase in Lambeth last year and at this rate, the increase will be 50 or 60 per cent next year.

A spokesman for the council said that free tennis lessons were being provided on the council's courts this winter for adults and children who had not played the game before. There are also refresher courses, each of four lessons, costing 50p for children and £1.50 for adults. The professional coaches were paid £5 an hour.

Mr Michael Bright, chairman of the amenities committee, said: "For Conservatives to be protesting about things like the cost of these tennis lessons is just penny pinching. The Conservative council on our committee have never complained. As a result of the course, large numbers of people are playing on our courts and generating revenue."

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## Mr Lynch is heading for a storm

From Christopher Thomas

Belfast

The political scene on both sides of the Irish border quickly swayed to Ulster's two big "loyalist" groups in the wake of his public battle over the proposed constitutional conference and Mr Jack Lynch, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, is heading for a storm.

In the North, the Rev Ian Paisley continued to speak as if he was the voice of all Protestants, and in the South, he served his position on whether his Democratic Unionists would attend the constitutional talks. He dropped some heavy hints, however, that he might yet take part.

The incident Westminster initiative is still in serious trouble. The complex manoeuvres of Mr Paisley and the official Ulster Unionists of Mr James Moynihan, who has said flatly that his members will not be at the conference table, are confusing some of the most seasoned local observers as the two groups vie for supremacy.

Mr Paisley flew into Belfast to issue a lengthy statement after his meeting with Mrs Margaret Thatcher the day before. Apparently the Prime Minister gave him the impression that she meant to say that she was imposing a solution if the local politicians cannot agree.

The consultative document, which will set out a number of points for the restoration of some local government powers, is expected to be published next week.

In Dublin, Mr Paisley will be looking to Mr Lynch as saying what he told the Westminster Press Club about a deal that would allow British helicopters to chase suspect vehicles for a limited distance into the republic.

A boy, aged 16, was found lying in a street in the Roman Catholic Andersonstown area of Belfast yesterday after being shot through both knees and elbows by a Provisional IRA punishment squad for "anti-social behaviour".

Anti-Lynch protest: Mr. Lynch said yesterday he was pleased with support in North America for his policy of voluntary reconciliation leading eventually to a united Ireland (Reuters reports from New York). Outside the Hilton hotel, where he was speaking, a number of demonstrators paraded with signs in support of the IRA.

## BBC film man denies IRA incident 'staged'

By Kenneth Coakley

Mr Paul Berriff, the cameraman in the *Panorama* film which showed IRA men in Carrickmore, Co Tyrone, on October 17, yesterday denied the BBC's denial that it was a staged incident.

The filming has been criticised by the Prime Minister and other MPs. It is being studied by Scotland Yard.

Mr Berriff said that he was in Carrickmore on October 17, and that he and his crew were in Carrickmore at 5.30 that evening. They drove 200 miles arriving at 5.15.

He said: "We drove through the village, saw no one, turned round and parked in a church forecourt. We sat smoking for five minutes and decided to drive through the village again before leaving." The crew was done in Belfast that evening.

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HOME NEWS

Defence risk in decline of merchant fleet

By Michael Bailey  
Shipping Correspondent

Britain's merchant fleet has declined so fast in the past five years that there are fears over the implications for defence.

A particular worry is increasing dependence on the Trans-Siberian Railway, which carries a tenth of the key trade between Britain, West Europe, and the Far East, and plans to more than double its share within three years. Any sudden disruption in the flow would not only wreck havoc in Western economies, but stop the supply of important materials and equipment.

Britain's fleet has shrunk by a quarter from million to under 38 million tons, in the past three years, and it is feared that the decline may continue at the same rate in tramp and tanker rates that was the main cause of it has recently shown some improvement.

British owners may go on selling ships rather than buying them, it is feared, since market conditions have improved. Three reasons are given: the recession is moving from tramps and tankers to liners in which Britain has a big interest; domestic inflation, fuelled by pay awards about 20 per cent to seafarers this year, is eroding the British flag's traditional cost advantage; British owners, pulled down by five years of nationalization and slump, lack the financial resource to expand and re-equip now that better times are ahead.

To meet the latter point, the industry is seeking a temporary reintroduction of investment allowances so that profits made in the better markets can be invested in new ships rather than paid in dividends. According to Sir Ronald Swayne, chairman of the Overseas Containers consortium, western governments have not begun to face up to the Russian machine trade. Recent actions by the Soviet Union, Spitzbergen, the Arctic, the Horn of Africa, Cuba, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and the Kurile Islands, were all aimed at controlling vital resources and potentially denying them to the West. At a time when Britain's merchant fleet was shrinking, Russian shipping increased its trade from 24 million tons in 1974 to 33 million in 1978.

Western shipping has also become more vulnerable because of technical advance. Sir Ronald said. His company had replaced 120 conventional cargo liners with 18 big container ships which could carry missiles instead of 120 torpedoes were needed to dispose of them.

The tendency of the EEC towards "expensive self-sufficiency" has further hastened the factor, in that it not merely lost markets for Europe's exports, but in the process lost "friends and the ability to exert influence".

The General Council of British Shipping said the first nine months of this year had been 5.1 million tons compared with 4.5 million for the whole of last year. The British fleet, which led the world until 1966, has since been overtaken by Japan, and Greece.

Mr Heseltine attacked over North Pennines

From John Chatteris  
Manchester

The Countryside Commission yesterday criticized Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, for withholding approval of the designation of 900 square miles of the North Pennines as an "area of outstanding natural beauty".

It complained that Mr Heseltine was withholding approval partly for the "irrelevant reason" that the Commission was studying general policy relating to the designation of such areas.

The North Pennines area, stretching from the south Tyne valley to the Yorkshire Dales National Park and taking in Tyndesdale in Northumberland, the West valley and Tredale in co Durham, and the Eden valley, in Cumbria, was designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty last December by the Countryside Commission, subject to confirmation.

Mr Heseltine said last month that he proposed not to approve the designation although he had yet to make a final decision.

Mr J. S. Bookwyke, director of the Countryside Commission, said in a reply released yesterday that the area would have been designated more than 10 years ago if a decision had not been deferred to provide time for consideration whether it should be given full National Park status.

A survey by the Countryside Commission last year showed that two out of three residents in the area favoured designation but the proposal has been opposed by farming and industrial interests.

PC appeal fund reaches £35,000

The appeal fund for the family of Police Constable Desmond Kellam, aged 31, who was found dying in a street in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, last October, has reached about £35,000.

Pc Kellam, a probationary policeman from Dilton Marsh, near Trowbridge, died on duty on October 3. A man aged 19 was charged with his murder.



Emergency operations room in action last winter.

Whitehall brief: Strike response

Part IV—the water industry

Sewerage breakdown is political nightmare

By Peter Hennessy

Sewage in the streets is a political nightmare. It is the ultimate sign that Government authority has broken down.

If the country's sewage treatment system failed and mains water supply became contaminated, public health would be placed in severe hazard. In such conditions Cabinets could easily topple.

After electricity, water supply is one of the contingency planner's most intense worries. There has never been a national water strike. All the Civil Contingencies Unit has to go on is the experience of limited and local breakdowns such as the one that afflicted the Pennine division of the North West Water Authority last winter when manual workers came out on unofficial strike.

In January the North West Military District had 27 service water treatment teams on standby at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. Each unit consisted of a Land-Rover, a driver, an electrician and a chlorine expert.

A Defence Council instruction had been prepared under the Emergency Powers Act, 1964. It needed only the signature of two council members for the operation to be ahead.

The water authorities were most reluctant to call in troops. Officials kept their talks with the military secret by meeting at a public house some distance from their Warrington headquarters.

They applied great ingenuity to the task of fulfilling their twin responsibilities of treating sewage and supplying drinking water without military assistance.

Supplies were discoloured

A number of expedients were used. Where the quality of raw water draining off the Pennines was high, treated water was by-passed and supply flowed direct from reservoir to household. Flocculants, normally added to assist the coagulation of solids, were held back to eke out the water before filters became clogged.

Supplies in the Bolton area were discoloured as a result, but health hazard was avoided and boiling was recommended. Managers from water treatment plants at night to carry out essential operations such as backwashing filters and applying chlorine to kill bacteria. Sewage was diverted from the Bolton treatment plant into the river. Of the 350,000 households in the Pennine division, 2,000 were affected. Of those, only 200 were totally without piped water because of bursts caused by frosts.

The lesson of the North-west experience, and similar eruptions across the Pennines in Yorkshire, was that the Government could "win" a long drawn out battle with manual workers provided the dispute was local and, above all, unofficial, enabling supervisory and managerial staff to keep working. The best result was that the country could be saved from disaster in the guise of health hazard, provided supervisory staff cooperated. Without water assistance, the attempt would fail.

The bulk of the supervisory and managerial grades are members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association. The best guess is that most of them would stay at their posts during a national emergency, though some might take a minimalist position, confining themselves to performing their normal duties but refusing to supervise members of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers ordered to work with them.

The first stage of the plan requires for its implementation the declaration of a State of Emergency under the Emergency Powers Act, 1920.

Emergency equipment would need to be requisitioned by the Forces. All three Services would be needed, with REME and Royal Navy electricians and Royal Engineer chlorine experts the most vital.

The plan specifies the use of 3,000 technicians, 2,000 drivers and vehicles and 5,000 general duties men. With control and command staff added, the total Service complement required would be about 15,000 men, close to the upper limit of troops available without severe disruption to Maco and Northern Ireland commitments.

In addition to treatment teams of the type that stood by in Preston in January, four-ton Army lorries, with 400-gallon water tanks in the back and 200-ton trailers in tow, would be ready to move into areas where supplies became seriously contaminated.

In such a contingency, troops and equipment would be stretched very thinly across the country. The Cabinet would have no reserves of military labour to draft to other tasks if more essential supplies and services were disrupted.

Even if its concentration was not diverted the plan would believe that the Government would have to step in very quickly and settle the dispute.

No reserves of labour

If all 15,000 troops were deployed, the risks would still be very great. Probably a walk-out by supervisory staff in just one large conurbation would tip the scales.

Within 48 hours of manual workers walking out, health hazards could become a real danger. The most immediately vulnerable points are sewage treatment plants upstream of water supply intakes drawn from rivers. If the strike coincided with a period of wet weather, sewage storage tanks would fill that much quicker and untreated effluent would be discharged into rivers.

The greatest worry is the backflow of sewage and industrial waste into the mains water supply. Metallic contaminants cannot be dealt with by the simple expedient of boiling the water. It needs to be distilled to separate it from such impurities, not an operation the normal household can undertake with ease.

The most common disorder resulting from contaminated water supplies would be diarrhoea. Salmonella would be another relatively common danger. The risk of typhoid would be about 1 in 750,000, and cholera lower still.

Unless the dispute was especially nasty, the worst consequences, with luck, could be avoided relatively easily. Strikers engaged in the North-west is a guide, would cut off supplies to industry with little compunction. But they would think very carefully before putting family and friends at risk.

Chlorination vital point

Unlike, say, the miners, water workers are very evenly spread throughout the community and cannot isolate themselves from the pollution that would certainly follow if they placed the health of the population at risk.

Both sides of the industry are acutely aware that chlorination, the disinfection of water supply, is the breaking point. They set great store by paragraph 30.2 of the 1977 national agreement, known in the industry as the Green Book. It reads:

"The water service is essential to the public and it is agreed that both sides to every effort shall be made to avoid any industrial action which would prejudice public health and public safety and ensure that in the event of industrial action every effort should be made to avoid harm to the health of consumers."

The paragraph has never had to be invoked.

Like electricity workers, water workers live constantly with the knowledge that their formidable industrial power is hampered by a succession of trigger points, beyond the last of which the consequences are unthinkable.

As one veteran manager of essential public services put it: "Because they are so strong, they are also weak."

Next: The military view.

Lloyd George and the strike breakers, page 12

WEST EUROPE

M Giscard's promises greeted by jeers in south-west France

From Ian Murray  
Foix, France, Nov 15

Jeering crowds turned out to welcome President Giscard d'Estaing in this ancient fortress town this evening, when he arrived to tell the people how much the Government will do for them and the rest of south-western France over the next 10 years.

He told them they would get better roads, support for agriculture, craftsmanship and industry and they shouted in sarcasm: "Giscard's promises!" The President stopped briefly first at St Girons, a picturesque old town on the banks of the river Salat where the population has fallen from 10,000 to 30,000 since the war.

The Communist Party had plastered the centre of the town with posters saying: "Only 30 minutes among us after years of organizing unemployment." Giscard supporters spent last night trying to stick their own posters on top of them assisted by two police vans: paroling constantly to keep the Communists and their poster-buckers away.

Here at Foix the authorities also tried to spare the President from the protesters. They lined his supporters up on the pavement of the town hall side of the road and security men rummaged along the other side of his car screened him from a glimpse of the clenched fists of the demonstrators.

He stepped out of the car the rear from the crowd and all but drowned by the amplified blast of the town band blaring out a fanfare.

But the President is too short to be feared by such cosmetics. He faces an election in 18 months time. Only by stilling the anger in the forgotten regions of France—of which the south-west is the poorest—can he hope to move forward to reelection with the sort of majority that can satisfy his ambition to speak for the whole country.

Officer critically ill after shots in Basque city

From Harry Debellus  
Madrid, Nov 15

Hopes for the early release of Señor Javier Ruperez, the MP held hostage by ETA, the Basque separatist group, were dashed yesterday when a suspected Basque secessionist shot an arm officer in San Sebastian.

Leutenant-Colonel López de Prada was reported to be in critical condition at the Red Cross hospital in San Sebastian after an emergency operation.

Two young assailants sprayed him with submachine-gun fire at about 8.45 am as he was leaving his car to travel to his duty station.

The attack came shortly after Señor Carlos Garaikoetxea, president of the Basque General Council, the interim Basque Government, said that ransom demands made by the kidnappers of Señor Ruperez: "His remark at the time suggested that the demands might be met despite statements by the Government in Madrid that there would be no negotiation with the terrorist organization."

Political observers in Madrid interpreted the shooting of the army officer as a warning from terrorists in the Basque country that the Government's refusal to bargain with them.

The observers also saw the attack as a veiled warning that the Señor Ruperez, who is the chief spokesman for the ruling Centre Democratic Union, might meet a similar fate unless the Government decides to accede to the demand to free five members of ETA said to be ill in prison.

The other demand made by the terrorists, for the creation of a Basque republic, was rejected by the Basque General Council to inquire into allegations of torture of Basque political prisoners, has already been met in practice, as taken steps to form such committees.

Señor Ruperez, who is 34 and father of one, was seized by ETA terrorists on Sunday morning while he was on his way from his home in the centre of Madrid to a hotel to attend the closing session of a congress of centre parties from Latin America and Spain.

Colonel López de Diego, who is 53 and the father of seven, is an infantryman. He has been stationed in the north of Spain since 1964. His military career: His latest assignment was as administrative officer with a regiment of mountain troops.

Roads barricaded

From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, Nov 15

The West German Government is resisting, calmly and with considerable diplomatic skill, a campaign by the communist bloc to weaken its support for the Nato plan to station medium-range nuclear missiles primarily on West German soil.

The pressure is being applied in two areas where the West Germans' most sensitive threats of dire consequences for its East-West relations are being combined with prospects of arms reduction, which is an important objective of the Government.

West Germany has been singled out, there is little doubt here, because of its key strategic position and in particular because of its alertness to the move in the East.

For Bonn can never for a moment forget that the ugly line which divides East from West runs right down the middle of Germany. Large numbers of each side's men and weapons are stationed on German soil and Germans would probably suffer first and worst if war broke out.

Any chance of the two halves of Germany ever coming together again—a aim which the Government is constitutionally bound to pursue—would depend on the removal of East-West mistrust and tension. Meanwhile, closer ties with East Germany and the security of the enclave city of West Berlin require friendly relations with the eastern neighbours.

Warnings from President Brezhnev to the Soviet Union and other Communist leaders that the deployment of the missiles in West Germany would severely damage these relations are seen here, therefore, as an attempt to drive a wedge between East Germany and its Nato allies by playing on these fears.

But Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, was the first to point out the need for medium-range weapons to restore the military balance in Europe after the introduction of Soviet SS20 missiles and backfire bombers. West German security and reliability as

though its agriculture is ill prepared for this, with three out of every four farmers aged over 50.

The banner in the crowd reflected their worry. "Farmers have a right to live, not to die."

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Jesuit control of Vatican radio thought to be at stake

Pope may allocate greater role to Opus Dei political movement

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Nov 15

Rumours that the Opus Dei movement is seeking an enhanced status within the Roman Catholic Church and that the Pope is favourably disposed to the request are arousing disquiet in Rome.

The movement claims 70,000 members, most of them lay people, drawn from 80 nationalities. It was founded in Madrid in 1928, and was particularly influential in political life during the closing years of General Franco's rule. Since 1946, its headquarters have been in Rome.

The present Pope was said to look with special favour on Opus Dei before his election. Hence, it was understandable that the Opus Dei should renew its request to the Vatican to change its status from that of a lay institute something giving it more freedom of action.

The fact that such a request had been formulated was disclosed in the Spanish press earlier this month. The movement's first case study on the reports, *El Pais* of Madrid then published what it claimed to be the complete document prepared by the Opus Dei with the object of gaining a new statute from the Pope which would free it from direct

dependence on the Vatican Congregation for the Religious Institutes, and from the bishops.

The movement has since refused to comment on the affair, which suggests that the document published by *El Pais* has indeed been put to the Vatican. As well as the Spanish press reports a series of articles appeared in the right-wing press in Rome stating that the Pope is thinking of removing Vatican Radio from the control of the Jesuits and making it over to Opus Dei.

The Jesuits, that most formidable of the religious orders which also had a Spanish founder and now has a Spanish leader in general, do not hide the fact that there is no love lost between themselves and Opus Dei.

A number of bishops, especially in the Anglo-Saxon world, are said to be perturbed about the movement's intentions and have been asking copies of the document. The movement's financial position is described by the Jesuits as "very strong".

The crucial point is the Pope's own ambiguous position. His one highly questionable appointment so far to high office in the Curia is that of

Cardinal Oddi as head of the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy. Given the dissonant many sections of the hierarchy, the nomination of a young man regarded as an extreme conservative as well as close connected with Opus Dei as a shock.

The Pope made this appointment on the eve of his departure for his visits to Ireland and the United States where he spoke particularly severely about priestly celibacy. This are now fears that he may be the congregation dealing with religious orders out of a rather flexible hands Cardinal Pironio, an Argentine and appoints a strict disciplinarian the as well as Pope Benedict XVI Mgr. Benigno Cardinal-Archbishop of Florence, was the strong figure in the Curia and opposed to the influence of Opus Dei. He played an important part in denouncing the Spanish church from the Vatican dictatorship so that the change could be made more smooth towards working with a democratic regime.

Among the very few cardinals of the Curia who were not appointed by the Pope's ear is Cardinal Baggio, who is said to be a supporter of Opus Dei.

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Pope Paul VI introduced proper wages scales, a pension scheme, severance pay and the possibility of borrowing as an advance on salary. These reforms were insufficient, especially because the Vatican's employees live in the highly volatile atmosphere of Italian wage demands.

Their basic salaries are low by Italian standards and after a rise of 10 per cent given by Pope Paul VI some eight years ago have remained stationary.

There are advantages in working at the Vatican. Salaries are not taxed. Food and household goods, petrol and tobacco can be bought at much lower prices than in the Italian market. But this is not a great help to those employees who live outside the Vatican and thus have to live partially on the Italian economy.

Those who live in the Vatican are better off because they pay little rent. There is no private enterprise in the Vatican; all the buildings are publicly owned and there is a practically total system of state ownership. Certainly more than the Pope would be known as a citizen of Poland.

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There are advantages in working at the Vatican. Salaries are not taxed. Food and household goods, petrol and tobacco can be bought at much lower prices than in the Italian market. But this is not a great help to those employees who live outside the Vatican and thus have to live partially on the Italian economy.

Those who live in the Vatican are better off because they pay little rent. There is no private enterprise in the Vatican; all the buildings are publicly owned and there is a practically total system of state ownership. Certainly more than the Pope would be known as a citizen of Poland.

The Pope has received at least two anonymous letters from groups of employees this year claiming to be "in very serious economic difficulties". The present Pope inherited a

had employment situation, and these have been increased signs of discontent throughout this year. A reasonably modern system was not introduced until as late as Pope Paul VI's reign. Before his time, employment was totally paternalistic. Jobs were given to faces that fitted or to persons backed by someone with influence, and pay was decided on similarly haphazard lines.

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## OVERSEAS

## Surprise dismissal of general involved in Nablus mayor dispute

Nablus, West Bank, Nov. 15.—Israeli general at the centre of the surprise dismissal of Mayor of Nablus was suddenly removed from his post.

General Matti Peled, 57, was dismissed from his post as commander of the Israel Defense Forces' 10th Division, which is based in the West Bank, by the Israeli Government.

Peled was dismissed after a surprise move came as a surprise to the Israeli public, including the general himself, who had been in the West Bank for several years.

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## Israel hands back historic Sinai monastery to Egypt

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, Nov. 15.

Efforts to maintain the momentum of the Middle East peace process in the face of new strains on relations between Israel and Egypt continued today with the formal handover of the most historic section of the Sinai, the St. Catherine monastery.

The monastery, built below the granite peak, was handed over to Egypt by Israel in 1967.

The move will be followed next week by the return of the Alma oilfields, which are being handed over to Egypt.

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## Retired officer for Salisbury police post

Sir James Haughton is likely to be the leader of a team of officers who will go to Salisbury to monitor the work of the 13,000-strong Rhodesian police force during the transitional period, if agreement is reached at the present London negotiations to end the war in Zimbabwe.

Sir James, formerly HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, who retired two years ago, would be police adviser to the Salisbury police.

## Thais prepare for another 200,000 refugees

From Bangkok, Nov. 15.—Thailand's social and economic situation for the government is not good.

The Thai Government is preparing for the arrival of another 200,000 refugees from Cambodia.

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A barrage of 60 artillery shells pounded the area at Ban Nonnong, north of Aranyaprathet yesterday, injuring 36 Kampuchean, a spokesman for the Thai army said today.

Four massive refugee camps are being prepared to accommodate an additional 200,000 refugees who are expected to cross the border into Thailand when fighting intensifies on the frontier in the coming weeks, according to a spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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## 110 settlers menace survival of Mr Begin

From Christopher Walker, Nablus, Nov. 15.

A small cluster of tents and mobile homes perched precariously on a steep hillside overlooking the town of Nablus could provide a catalyst for bringing down the beleaguered coalition Government of Mr Menachem Begin.

Looking more like an adventure holiday project than a threat to the Middle East peace process, the Jewish settlement of Eilat Morah will provide a crucial test of Mr Begin's ability to deal with the extreme right-wing supporters of Gush Emunim.

Next Thursday, the 30-day deadline set by the Israeli Supreme Court for evacuation of the site will expire. But the settlers still maintain they will not leave voluntarily, despite repeated warnings by the Government to buy them off with promises of a greatly expanded settlement policy.

There are 110 people now living in the hilltop settlement, including 63 children. Most of the adults are articulate and intelligent and all share an apparently unshakable conviction that they have a biblical right to land which the Supreme Court ruled was seized illegally from its Arab owners.

Typical of the settlers is Mrs. Mikhal Shvut, a 26-year-old Tel Aviv housewife who, with her husband, has moved to the settlement with their two children.

## 50 missing in Bosphorus tanker blast

From Sinan Fisek, Ankara, Nov. 15.

At least 50 people were reported missing today after a Greek cargo ship ran into a Romanian tanker at anchor in the Bosphorus off Istanbul.

The tanker exploded when the 5,299-tonne Greek ship collided with it.

## 'Fatigued' Ayatollah refuses to rule on fate of American hostages

From Robert Fisk, Tehran, Nov. 15.

Iran's ruling Revolutionary Council, anxious to clarify the Ayatollah Khomeini's intentions towards the hostages who have now spent 11 days in the custody of the Islamic revolutionaries in Tehran, were forced to postpone a meeting with the Iranian religious leader today when his office announced that he had cancelled all appointments until next month because of "fatigue".

The last word to have been heard from the ayatollah is that the prisoners must remain in captivity until the deposed Shah is returned to Iran for trial.

Whether the ayatollah has softened his conditions for the release of the hostages was not known tonight although Mr. Abolmohsen, Bani-Sadr, the Iranian Foreign Minister, has said that the women prisoners in the embassy compound, together with the black American hostages, will be freed soon.

As usual with such moderate statements of intent, the students at the embassy immediately contradicted what Mr. Bani-Sadr had said. As far as they were concerned—and they are receiving the personal encouragement and support of Ayatollah Khomeini—no prisoners would be released until the Shah was returned for trial.

Despite the appointment of interim ministers from the Revolutionary Council, no one in Iran has been in any doubt that it is the ayatollah who defines the country's foreign and domestic policies. Since the nation's new Islamic constitution was completed today, his power is now likely to receive formal acknowledgement.

Article Five of the constitution states that a religious leader with majority support—"a just, pious, enlightened, courageous and sagacious person"—will become guardian of the nation. It seems obvious that this arduous, not to say spiritually wearying role, will be given to none other than Ayatollah Khomeini.

## Threats to 8 Ugandan politicians

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Nov. 15.

Uganda's National Consultative Council, the country's interim parliament, temporarily suspended its sitting in Kampala after at least eight of its 127 members received anonymous letters threatening that they would be killed.

The threats are alleged to have come from supporters of former President Yusufu Lule, who was ousted in June after 68 days in office and replaced by President Godfrey Binaisa. Police officials here say information about the source of the threats was obtained from members of an armed gang who were captured and interrogated in Kampala this week.

Local residents overpowered some members of the gang, killed them and burned their bodies.

The council meets in the parliament building in Kampala. Members complained that it lacked security and arrangements are being made for armed guards to be placed around the building before the council resumes, probably tomorrow.

## Russians blame 'Cold War' Britain for lack of trade

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Nov. 15.

The Russians today blamed Britain for the disappointing level of Anglo-Soviet trade, explicitly pointing to the poor political relations between the two countries as the reason why trade had not developed as much as it might have.

## Mr Sanjay Gandhi to be election candidate

From Richard Wig, Delhi, Nov. 15.

Mr Sanjay Gandhi, the controversial son of Mrs Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister, is to be a candidate in the India general election in January. He will stand in Amethi, the constituency in which he was resoundingly defeated in the March 1977 general election, when Mrs Gandhi lost power.

Mr Chavan, who as Home Minister regularly sees detailed intelligence reports from around the country, said that there was no prospect of any single political party winning a majority in the general election.

Mr Chavan is leader of the wing of the Congress Party known as the "moderates" and is generally regarded as the most realistic political mind in the coalition caretaker government.

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## Levesque bastion among three seats lost

From John Best, Ottawa, Nov. 15.

The Parti Québécois Government of Quebec has suffered a devastating defeat with the loss of three provincial by-elections to the opposition Liberals.

Mr Claude Ryan, provincial Liberal leader, said his party's sweep in yesterday's election was proof that the people of Quebec wanted the mainly French speaking province to continue playing an active and responsible role in the Canadian confederation.

The Parti Québécois defeat came one day before the third anniversary of the party's accession to power in a provincial election that raised serious doubts about Canada's future. A referendum on the party's plan for "sovereignty-association"—political independence for Quebec, in economic association with the rest of Canada—is to take place in the province next spring.

One of the ridings taken yesterday by the Liberals—Maison-neuve, in east-end Montreal—has been a Parti Québécois stronghold.

The party won Maison-neuve with a 9,000-vote majority in 1976. But yesterday its candidate, Mr Jacques Desmarais, aged 36, a labour lawyer, lost it by nearly 3,000 votes to the Liberal candidate, Mr George Lalande, aged 40, a court administrator.

## Drug case Briton to be caned

Penang, Malaysia, Nov. 15.—Maurice Reginald Stovell, aged 43, from Ealing, a record producer, was jailed for three years and ordered to be given six strokes of a cane for possessing heroin.

Mr Stovell, admitted having 279 grammes (about 10z) of the drug on June 22 last year.

## Miners buried by landslide

Breza, Yugoslavia, Nov. 15.—A 70-man rescue team was struggling today to recover the bodies of five coal miners buried yesterday under a landslide of 12,000 cubic yards of waste, the national news agency Tanjug reported.

It said the miners were working at the Breza open-pit coal mine in central Yugoslavia.

Long strips of burning crude oil could be seen slowly floating down the Bosphorus into the Marmara Sea, Mr Ochan Erbuğ, governor of Istanbul said it had been a "close call" for the city, although the threat to coastal buildings had now passed.

Pollution move: At the request of the Romanian Government, Captain Michael Garnett, a British expert, was flown to Istanbul to advise on ways of preventing pollution from the burning tanker. Captain Garnett, aged 52, is a top technical expert at the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation, the London-based world authority on marine pollution.

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# OVERSEAS

## Growing exasperation in Moscow over trend of Iranian events

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, Nov 15

When the Russians are not sure what to make of a crisis overseas they ignore it or report it in the briefest factual terms. The occupation of the American Embassy in Tehran is, to use Soviet press terminology, "a difficult situation".

Though Moscow is not exactly bedded by the discomfiture of the Americans, it can hardly approve such a flagrant breach of international usage. The dilemma also reflects Soviet ambivalence over Ayatollah Khomeini and his Islamic revolution.

The Soviet press has, therefore, confined itself to short dispatches on the embassy occupation, quoting official Iranian sources and reaction in Washington. But Tass news agency has been more forthcoming, explaining American military contingency planning by the "quick reaction force", harassment of Iranian students in the United States and American connivance in the Shah's excesses.

Tass has rejected as "groundless" American complaints over Moscow's reporting of the events. But it does not mention Soviet broadcasts to Iran which, according to radio monitors have accused the Americans of trying to inspire counter-revolutionary forces.

There is no doubt, however, that the Russians have become increasingly exasperated by the trend of events south of their border. Though Moscow disliked the Shah's anti-communist policies and his involvement with the Americans, it had found a way to live with him. The Russians offered substantial aid projects, and the Shah was ready to increase his dependence on natural gas to the Soviet Union.

But Moscow was quick to welcome his overthrow. The spring revolution was portrayed as a people's movement against a despotic tyrant. It was backed by the United States, Ayatollah Khomeini was hailed as an anti-imperialist revolutionary.

As long as he was supported by the now legalized Tudeh party, representing Iranian Communists, his Muslim fundamentalism was accepted as a necessary, though perhaps not very attractive, part of his philosophy.

But Moscow was always wary of the Ayatollah. Years before his name was known in the West, he was being denounced here as a dangerous religious fanatic. For the sake of good neighbourly relations Moscow made frequent overtures to Tehran, ignoring the Ayatollah's critical remarks on the Soviet Union.

There were several pressing problems to solve: a urgent need for a check on the supply of natural gas which severely affected Georgia and Armenia during the winter.

The first public doubts about the direction of the new Government came in May, when Communists were blamed for the assassination of Ayatollah Mahabadi. The disturbances were blamed here on "Islamic forces", which Moscow accused of trying to split the revolutionary movement. Moscow also kept quiet over Iranian calls for "religious freedom" for Soviet Muslims, though border security was increased and Iranian broadcasts were jammed.

But the Russians could not ignore Iranian involvement in Afghanistan. There were a few oblique reports, but the day after the Tudeh Party headquarters were closed down in August, Pravda bluntly denounced as lies and deliberate provocation the United States' claims that the Russians were supporting the Soviet role in Afghanistan.

Moscow has now lost all patience. While denying that it is helping the Kurds, the Soviet press is now openly accusing the United States of supporting the Iranian revolution. It adds: "Three years ago most observers would not have foreseen the significant economic

# FOREIGN REPORT

## Egyptian economy

### Life gets tougher if you live in Cairo

The impression Cairo makes on you depends largely on whether you have been there before and, if so, how long ago. To someone arriving for the first time, or who had not been there for 30 years, it must still seem a miserably squalid and neglected place. To me, returning after only two years' absence, a number of improvements were immediately noticeable.

A new arrival hall has been added to the airport. The press centre in the television building has been redecorated and furnished. The flower market, the Khan el-Khalili, has been completed. Several new hotels have been completed, and more are on their way up.

Most amazing of all, the telephone works. From certain very privileged locations, one can even dial direct to Britain. Calls within central Cairo remain uncertain, but are now definitely worth attempting, even in mid-morning. Only the suburb of Helwan is still right out of reach.

Has Egypt turned the corner at last? Is peace bringing prosperity after all? Certainly the foreign business community are now more cheerful than at any time since the 1950s. A study produced last month by a group of British businessmen on Egypt's estimated economic position 1978-1981 concludes that "over the next few years the prospects are encouraging enough to attract a large number of foreign firms". It adds: "Three years ago most observers would not have foreseen the significant economic improvements which have since taken place."

Income from oil exports this year will be nearly double that in 1978 (£700m, instead of £350m). Income from tourism has held steady at £400m, a high level for a country in the months immediately following the peace treaty being compensated by an increase in Western tourism, and there are signs that the Arab tourists are now coming back.

Suez Canal dues are likewise steady at just over £250m and expected to increase sharply by 1981 when the canal will have been widened and deepened to take the larger oil tankers. Workers' remittances were already £575m in 1978, and are expected to be over £1,000m this year, rising to perhaps as much as £1,300m by 1981. Arab sanctions are not expected to affect this income, since the need for Egyptian aid is far less than that of Arab countries.

But how far does this relatively reassuring financial picture reflect a real economic improvement? Here one enters much more murky waters, where economic judgments are conditioned by political standpoints.

Mr Gavin Green, manager of Barclays Bank International, proudly reels off a list of the industrial projects started in the past two years under Law 43, which permits direct foreign investment; a total investment of £125m, he says, now actually in production, with several more projects on the threshold.

Dr Ismail Sabri Abdallah, an outstanding economist who was Minister of Planning in 1973-75 but now belongs to the left-wing Progressive National Unionist Party, scornfully dismisses the list. He says: "Some projects, like a Seven-Up bottling plant, he regards as so light that they do not count as industry, while others, like a Schindler lift factory, he describes as 'sabotage of the Egyptian economy', since there is already a state-owned factory producing the same lift under licence."

According to Dr Abdallah, both agricultural and industrial production are declining. "We import 74 per cent of the wheat we consume instead of 30 per cent before 1973. We were not exporters of rice. Now we are importing from the United States. This reflects a degradation of the pattern of production; people can't afford protein so they fill up their stomachs with rice."

Cigarette production, he says, is down by 30 per cent. "Ask in the shops for Cleopatra cigarettes. You won't find them. They're selling at a black market price. This is because of neglect of the state-owned tobacco company, which is not allowed enough foreign currency to replace its obsolete equipment."

"Those cigarettes used to be exported to Arab countries and Eastern Europe. But now people are making money from imports. They profit from any foreign currency, and they use it to give themselves a taste of money. And so on."

No one disputes that some Egyptians are doing well, especially those in the import-export business and a few skilled artisans such as plumbers and electricians, who benefit from their enormous scarcity value (most of their colleagues having gone to work for even higher wages in the Gulf).

No one disputes either that there is a substantial population, especially government employees, which is acutely feeling the pinch as its income fails to keep pace with inflation (variously estimated at anything between 20 and 40 per cent).

What is questioned is the relative size of the two groups, and also the effect of the contrast between them. Some of the more lucid foreign observers, for instance in the American embassy, admit that in the nature of things the least favoured groups are the ones with whom they have most contact, and whose feelings they therefore have least opportunity to gauge.

My impression is that for the majority of Cairo's 12 million inhabitants life is increasingly frustrating and difficult. The telephone may work, if you have it, but the public transport system is still pitifully inadequate, the office blocks filthy and crowded, the housing far short of the population.

In most social groups a young man's chances of finding a job and a house which would enable him to marry and raise a family are very slim. Almost his only chance is to go abroad, if he can, or to seek solace in his religion.

The population of Cairo is living on its nerves, that is not a political observation, but one that could have political implications.

## Seven stand for late Transport Minister's seat

From Our Correspondent  
Kuala Lumpur, Nov 15

Seven candidates are standing for the Port Klang constituency, which became vacant when the Malaysian Transport Minister, Tan Sri Manikavasagam, died last month.

Sri Manikavasagam, who held the seat for 20 years, was 53 when he died of a heart attack.

Nominations closed today and the by-election is due for December.

The ruling National Front Coalition candidate, Mr V. Govindaraju, a member of Tan Sri Manikavasagam's Malaysian Indian Congress, is being backed by the opposition party candidates and four independents in a constituency which has gradually shifted from an Indian majority to a Malay majority.

## Iceberg will take Captain Scott's body out to sea

From Our Correspondent  
Johannesburg, Nov 15

The body of Captain Robert Falcon Scott, who died in 1912, is about to be committed to the ocean.

The continental ice-sheet which swallowed his tent and body 75 miles inland is about to break off in an iceberg, according to Mr Peter Johnson, an experienced Antarctic traveller who visited the site with Sir Peter Scott, Captain Scott's son, earlier this year.

Mr Johnson says that scientists who measure the movement of the Antarctic ice-sheet have calculated that any day a huge chunk of ice, in which Captain Scott's body is preserved will break off and slowly melt as it drifts northwards.

Mr Johnson, a photographer, recently published a book, *Antarctica*, containing a picture of his father's chart-table at the expedition's base camp, now named Cape Evans.

He said: "It was a weird experience to enter the cabin, which is just as Scott left it. Sir Peter was obviously moved by the experience." The hut is preserved by New Zealand, which has a base nearby.

## Naturalists hunt extinct tiger in Tasmania

From Our Correspondent  
Melbourne, Nov 15

A big hunt has begun to find out if the Tasmanian tiger is really extinct, as most conservation experts believe.

Some naturalists have suspected the species may still be in existence and now—46 years after the last known tiger died in captivity—the World Wildlife Fund Australian section has launched a project to discover if there are any survivors. A system of tripwires is being devised to try to catch a live tiger.

The Tasmanian Government began to pay a bounty in 1888 for shot tigers and by 1909 the scheme had produced a death toll of 2,184. But farmers, angry at the number of sheep and poultry being slaughtered by the tiger, had begun their own campaign, offering a high bounty, and the total killed was far greater than the official figure.

The campaign reached a successful conclusion in 1933, when the last known tiger died in the zoo. Ironically, a few months later the Tasmanian Government declared the tiger a protected species.

However, hundreds of sightings of the tiger have been reported since. The Tasmanian tiger is, or was, also known as the Tasmanian wolf, marsupial wolf or, from its scientific name (*Thylacinus potens*), marsupial lion.

The animal was a marsupial cat and was thought to be, at 44in long excluding the 21in tail, the biggest carnivorous marsupial that ever lived.

Zoologically, it had some remarkably dog-like features and apparently most resembled a hyena, although its hind-quarters and tail reminded many observers of the kangaroo, giving rise to poorly substantiated reports that it hopped when pursued.

## Swift death for Chinese rapist

Peking, Nov 15.—Twin brothers nicknamed "the play-boy lords" were sentenced to death yesterday for their part in the rape of 106 women. One, Xiong Ziping, aged 27, was executed immediately after a court in the southern resort city of Hangzhou rejected an appeal, the Chinese media said today.

His twin, Xiong Beiping, was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve. If he shows an "improved attitude" in the next two years, the sentence will be commuted.—Reuter

## Mexican oil spill

### US plays down claims for compensation

After much heart searching, the United States apparently has decided that discretion is the better part of valour in a simmering dispute with its Mexican neighbour about the aftermath of the world's worst oil spill.

In spite of considerable pressure from the Texas oil and fishing industries, Washington decided last month not to seek financial compensation for damages either from the Mexican Government or from the two Mexican companies involved in the incident at an oil well in Campeche Bay off the Mexican coast.

Instead, the American Justice Department decided to restrict its litigation to a modest \$10m (£5m) damages to Sedco, an American firm which leased Mexico the oilrig used at the site of the blowout.

Announcing the decision, Mr Benjamin Civiletti, the Attorney General, said the claim could be extended as the long-term effects of the oil spill are assessed. But few people in Texas or Washington believe that the lawsuit will ever encompass Mexican oil companies, particularly since one of them, Pemex, is that country's state-run oil monopoly.

The oil spill which began on June 3 could not have come at a worse time for the American Administration. Relations between Washington and Mexico were beginning to look brighter than they have been since President Carter took office nearly three years ago.

They reached a point during a visit to Mexico by Mr Carter last February when he made a weak and tasteless joke about "Montezuma's revenge" and in turn accused his President-elect Lopez Portillo about Mexico's "burden of

resentment" against its rich and powerful neighbour.

But the summer's labours of a new period of quiet diplomatic courtship by Washington were beginning to bear fruit. In the midst of the spill, the two countries reached a new agreement on the sale of Mexican natural gas to the United States.

When President Lopez Portillo arrived for a state visit to Washington shortly after the agreement had been concluded, he made it very clear that his Government would resist all efforts to place the blame for the spill on its shoulders.

As justification for his point of view, he argued that the United States had refused repeatedly to compensate Mexican farmers for damage to their land caused by salt deposits originating from American farms and carried downstream by the Colorado river.

Since then, according to Mexican officials, there have been no new diplomatic approaches for claims for damages although both governments have said they are willing to work out new compensation arrangements for any future ecological disasters.

The oil spill has also caused considerable political embarrassment for Mr Bill Clements, the colourful Republican Governor of Texas. He is the founder of Sedco and, although his financial stock has been placed in a "blind trust" during his tenure of office, his son is president of the company.

The Governor's unflappable during the oil spill, characterized by such comments as: "There's no use in crying over spilled milk," and "let's not get all excited about this thing," have prompted his critics to question where his sympathies really lie.

A little over a week has been in order—a little anger, some sorrow, vows to do something," wrote a columnist for the Houston Post in a typical reaction to the Governor's behaviour. "But he has not had a feeling of being 'let down'," he added.

In an interview with me, Mr Clements responded to such criticism by pointing out: "The catastrophe which some of the press would like to paint has not happened yet, we have a serious problem—economic losses in the tourist trade and some oil on the beach—but it's not over."

This is, however, meagre consolation for fishermen and tourist operators along a 150-mile stretch of sandy Texas coastline hit by the spill.

According to the mayor of one of the resorts most affected, half the tourist season, which tourist business was lost, dropping between 800 and 1,200 people out of work.

Because of adverse publicity, visitors for the July 4 holiday weekend, for example, were 66 per cent down on previous years. This was even before the oil reached the area and may also have been partly due to coincidental petrol shortages which affected the tourist trade in many parts of the country this summer.

To offset these losses, fishermen and tourist groups have filed private lawsuits totalling some \$350m against Sedco, as well as Pemex and Permargo, the Mexican drilling contractor involved in the well blowout.

To the consternation of Mr Clements, in particular, the Texas state government is supporting these suits. The Texas Attorney-General is a Democrat with political ambitions of

## Reform in Brazil

### Military regime allows controlled opposition

The Brazilian military regime is at a critical point in its policy of gradual liberalization. For several years the process, known as *abertura*, has been going ahead in fits and starts, and the recent months it has taken on a faster momentum.

Exiles such as Senator Leonel Brizola, the former governor of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Senator Miguel Arraes, the former governor of Pernambuco, and Senator Luis Carlos Prestes, the secretary general of the banned Communist Party, have returned to Brazil under the terms of an amnesty, after living for years abroad. Strikes, once severely repressed, have been called in several parts of the country.

The question now is how far the military authorities will allow the process to go, before they put the brakes on for fear of losing control; and it is being asked very pointedly since the Government Bill was sent to Congress last month, providing for reform of the party political system.

The Bill is presented as a further measure of liberalization. It abolishes the two-party system which has been in force since 1964, and allows supporters in Congress were in one party, Arena, and all members of the Opposition were in the other, the Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB); and it allows the creation of new parties, provided certain conditions are met.

But the conditions are much more stringent than had been expected, and this may have prompted the Government's intentions. New parties will have to get five per cent of the votes if they are to survive, for instance, as well as three per cent in each of nine states. There is also a stipulation that they must not show "racial, religious or class bias", which would seem to rule out parties representing workers.

What form the Bill will have when it eventually comes from Congress is still not clear, because the Government has said that it is prepared to negotiate amendments, and even those of its own supporters are unhappy about the Bill. But it is clear that the aim is to make things difficult for the Opposition, while ensuring a large and powerful party for Government supporters.

This is consistent with the policy that has been followed ever since the *abertura* began. The basic aim has been to allow a certain amount of protest and letting off of steam—in the press, for instance, though not on radio or television—without relinquishing control over policy.

It was very obvious in the congressional elections held last November. The campaign was an open one in many ways, with public meetings, and a free thing from dictatorship and torture to the rate of inflation was criticized, and with serious discussion of the issues in the press.

The military were not prepared to see their supporters defeated, however, and had previously framed the rules so that Arena would end up with more seats. One-third of the Senate was not elected, for instance, but was effectively in the gift of the regime, while the poorer, more backward parts of the country, where it is easier for the Government to ensure the election of its supporters, not always by purely democratic means, were over-represented.

The outcome, therefore, was that the MDB polled significantly more votes overall than Arena, and won victories in some of the more developed parts of the country, such as Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Arena emerged with a clear majority in both houses of Congress.

The fear in Brasilia is that it will not be possible to pull this off again next time, in 1982, because of the discontent with Government policies that has been made clear; and the discontent may well increase as a result of inflation, which has been running at over 50 per cent a year.

The two-party system itself also played against the regime because it made the MDB into a rallying point for opponents of all kinds and virtually turned an election into a plebiscite for or against the military regime. Like Arena, the MDB represented a collection of very different interests, but it had acquired a certain esprit de corps from its successes.

The Government's party reform Bill is not to be seen, therefore, only as a gesture of liberalization, but also as a carefully calculated operation to split the MDB. The Government is known to be manoeuvring to have a total of four parties—a large party for its own supporters, one centre-right, one moderate left, and one further left but not communist.

Critics say that this will lead to something like the Mexican system, with one official party which, one way or another, always wins elections, surrounded by smaller and ineffective opposition parties. Senior members of the Government, on the other hand, maintain that there is a genuine commitment to greater openness, and that bargains will be struck between the Government party and the others in Congress.

Brazil has had a military government since 1964, one of the longest running in South America. It has always been something of a world apart from its neighbours because of its different language, Portuguese, and its distinctive traditions.

# ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning see prefix of only cinema, London Metropolitan Area.

## OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN: 01-549 5500  
The Royal Opera  
Tosca  
Nov 16-17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Dec 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Jan 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Feb 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Mar 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Apr 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, May 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Jun 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Jul 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Aug 1, 2, 3, 4, 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# Lewis stutters under stress as Gullikson ends the argument

By Rex Bellamy

Jennings, Correspondent

When the cause for 'satisfaction' when Tim Gullikson beat Lewis 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, in the Benson and Hedges tennis tournament at Wimbledon yesterday, Lewis was the winner and Gullikson the loser.

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It must look horribly sensible and solid from the other end of the court. He lost his first service game but conceded only four points in the next three. The more Lewis played, the more he seemed to be under the thumb. Instead, Lewis broke through to win the second set.

At 6ft 3in Lewis is a lanky tennis player and he was now beginning to play accordingly. It was reasonable that he should take some time to catch the drift of Gullikson's tennis language. It was admirable that, for almost a set and a half, he should then contest the reprieve on even terms. It was predictable that he would be the first to stutter under the strain of mutual interrogation. Lewis served a double-fault to go 3-4 down in the third set. The argument was over.

Marty Riessen is 37 but has had such a good year that as long as he can maintain a respectable ranking he will stay in the waters of the over-35 circuit. He was beaten 6-1, 6-4 by Wojtek Fibak, whose tennis is as manicured and controlled as Lewis's playing it. (One day Fibak will be a Polish ambassador de jure rather than de facto).

Riessen had a run of four games out of five but this was rather irrelevant as he was 1-6 and 0-2 down at this point they had a launching pad.

SECOND ROUND: U.S. Fibak (Poland) 6-1, 6-4, 6-4; Gullikson (U.S.) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Lewis (U.S.) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Riessen (U.S.) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

From John Woodcock Melbourne, Nov 15

The lead in the Australian Open championship is shared here by three little-known golfers: Deryn Simon, a "rookie" from the United States; Paul Hart, a young professional from New South Wales; and David Graham, a 21-year-old from the British Open champion, Frank (Fuzzy) Zoeller, the American Masters winner of this year's American PGA.

Johnson, who is 27, is in his third year as a professional in the United States. He has taken a break from golf between the end of the English season and the new year when, for the last three winters, he has headed for Africa.

In 1977 he came fourth in the Nigerian Open, which is much his best finish. Before that he won the Pinham club championship and played country golf for Warwickshire. All of which, while showing surprise that they should be interested, he vouchsafed to the end of a splendid golfing day.

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For the record

Tennis

Ice hockey

Basketball

Golf

## Rugby Union

Down but not out: Mackness gets his pass away to Bryan for Stanley's XV.

Holmes makes off with the spoils

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

Oxford University 6

Major R. V. Stanley's XV 7

With as bustling a performance as they have produced in this fixture for many years, Oxford University came within a whisker of victory at Iffley Road yesterday and then, at the climax, lost to the only try of the match.

No one would have begrudged them the spoils when, with a couple of minutes remaining, they led 6-3, by two penalties to one, on a dank, raw and gloomy afternoon.

Second round: U.S. Fibak (Poland) 6-1, 6-4, 6-4; Gullikson (U.S.) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Lewis (U.S.) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Riessen (U.S.) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

From John Woodcock Melbourne, Nov 15

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For the record

Tennis

Ice hockey

Basketball

Golf

## Football

Way to Forest open but only as visitor

By Norman Fox

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## Racing

**By Michael Phillips  
Racing Correspondent**

By Michael Seely

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris

1.0 FELTON HURDLE (Div-1 : Novices :

[Television (BBC 2): 1.35, 2.5, 2.2]

410	212110-	Slaughter (CD), D. Kent, 5-10-8	T. Carmody
411	301112-	Supreme Vice, B. Richmond, 6-10-8	P. Haynes
412		Vaughn James, E. Benson, 5-10-8	G. Holmes

## Rugby League

Rugby league challengers, Brad- and McCorquodale can

No matter how fast your business is carriers' prices'—just updated—and 'The future

Royal Mail Parcels  
We mean business











**Mr Zulfikar  
Ali Bhutto**

The enforced replacement of resident Ayub Khan by the new army commander General Yahya Khan in 1969 brought with it the promise of constitutional reforms. Elections held in December, 1970, for a constituent assembly demonstrated

Bhutto sought to rebuild Pakistan's shattered identity as an Islamic state looking westwards to the increasingly pow-

ful and wealthy group of Islamic nations. The climax of this aspect of Mr Bhutto's foreign policy was the Islamic summit conference held in Lahore in February, 1974. Despite this international identification with the Islamic world the opposition to Bhutto grew among the right-wing Islamic parties in Pakistan. When the first elections under the new constitution were called for March, 1977, religious conservatives were again the dominant group among the nine opposition parties which joined together to form the Pakistan National Alliance. Mr Bhutto's People's Party won

The election to the National Assembly by a large margin. The opposition parties boycotted the provincial elections on the ground that the national poll had been extensively rigged and launched a protracted agitation calling for fresh elections and the resignation of Bhutto as prime minister.

Widespread disturbances followed in which there was loss of life, and martial law was proclaimed in some of Pakistan's main cities.

The army stepped in on July 5, 1977, dismissed Bhutto's government and took

# Prime Minister who personified Israeli spirit

power ostensibly on a caretaker basis until new elections, promised within 90 days, could be held. But within that period the new military leader, General Zia-ul-Haq, initiated a "process of accountability" to investigate and punish any corruption or misuse of power by members and associates of the former government. Elections were postponed indefinitely. Bhutto himself was arraigned on a murder charge, tried, convicted and hanged. The case continued to death by the Lahore High Court. Though his political support in the country appeared to remain strong, all

political activity was banned and many of his supporters, who demonstrated in protest, were punished with summary sentences of flogging and imprisonment. The enforcement by the military regime of traditional Islamic punishments rapidly destroyed the perception of sympathy for Bhutto's movement. It did not look even by some of those who had been highly critical of his own authoritarian methods of government.

Bhutto's appeal to the Pakistani Supreme Court in May, 1978, and went on Monday by mouth amid extra-mural charges and counter-charges.

demonstrations . . . and an emotional appearance by Bhutto himself in December when he spoke of the "inhuman conditions" in which he had been kept in the debarment cell.

Finally, the Supreme Court by a small majority, rejected his appeal and this was followed by pleas that Bhutto's life be spared from mankind's worst leaders by no means a world would necessarily be a kinder place politically if he himself forfeit his family to plead for his life.

**Mr Park  
Chung Hee**

He was re-elected President in 1967 and again in 1971. He was a narrow margin over his rival, Kim Dae Jung, who was elected the constitution, abolition of direct elections and provided for a strict emergency powers clause under the constitution. Political opponents were treated with great severity and criticism of the regime was become a crime. An assassination attempt on Park in 1974, led from Japan by a South Korean leader, failed, killing 11 people. Park's wife and sexual relations with Japan once more led to the economic miracle of the 1970s, the term of Park's strength made it a American decision, in 1977, to withdraw most of its troops from Korea, seen something less than a disaster.

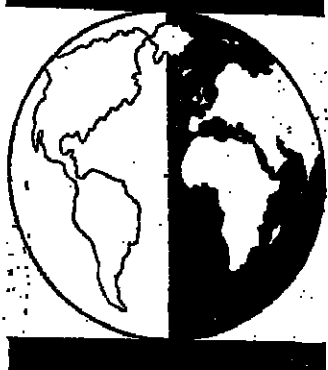
In 1978 Park was elected 5th President by a unanimous vote of the electorate. All political opponents have been placed under house arrest during the election











## Italians rationalize fibre market

ENI, Italy's state energy group, will salvage a troubled fibre company which it owns jointly with Montedison, a leading petrochemical conglomerate, it was announced in Rome by Signor Bino Lombardi, the Industry Minister.

In return, Montedison could not withdraw from its responsibility to salvage the remaining fibre operations, Signor Lombardi told a parliamentary committee.

Italy's fibre industry has suffered from excess capacity. However, recent talks among three leading producers have resulted in a rough division of the market. Montedison will concentrate on polyesters; ENI will produce acrylics and Sella Viscosa, another private company, will manufacture viscous fibres.

**Born oil imports rise**  
West Germany imported 9.01 million metric tons of crude oil in October, up 5.7 per cent from October, 1978, according to preliminary figures released by the Federal Statistics Office. The average price for a ton of imported crude oil climbed to Dm328.40 (more than £80), in October.

**US car sales slump**  
Domestic made new car sales in the United States dropped 26 per cent in early November, from the same time in October, a decline worse than expected by some Detroit analysts. This follows a 7 per cent fall in October.

**Nissan output up**  
Motor vehicle production in October for Nissan, Japan's second largest car maker, totalled 208,469 units, up 4.9 per cent from October last year. Exports were 94,839 units. Toyota claimed that its productivity was up by 11.9 per cent from a year ago.

**French deficit up**  
France recorded a seasonally adjusted trade deficit of F2,869m (about £322m) in October, up from a deficit of F1,787m in September, according to the External Trade Ministry.

New working agreement should mean an end to disruption and delays

## Peace plan for the construction industry

By John Hurley  
A national working agreement aimed at ending a history of labour disruption, delays, and soaring costs on large industrial construction sites could be operating by the beginning of next year. It is seen as a positive step in tackling problems which cost millions of pounds each year. The Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) alone estimates that building delays on power station sites have cost £1,000m.

Next week, seven unions and two employers' organizations who have been groping towards a pact for almost a decade meet. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, will tell them that prospects for a settlement have never been better.

Yesterday Mr Norman Singleton, independent chairman of the all-industry working party, said that, although obstacles remained, it was hoped to complete detailed negotiations for

an agreement to come into force on either January 1 or April 1.

The mechanical engineering construction industry, whose main clients are the power, oil, chemical, and steel industries, has a small workforce—probably fewer than 40,000 men—workers—but pressure to invest is put at more than £2,500m. The industry's poor performance has been cited as a deterrent to large-scale investment.

Some projects have overshot cost and time schedules by spectacular margins. Dungeness B power station is about ten years late, and could end up costing around £300m more than originally estimated. Delays and cost escalation have also hit large chemical plants on Teesside.

Repeated design changes, such as those which have caused administrative problems on the CEGB's £410m Dnirvic pumped storage scheme, are

among the reasons given for the poor performance. The need for a national agreement covering pay and conditions on all large sites was identified as crucial for reform of the present chaos by a National Economic Development Office report in 1970.

It confirmed that disparities of pay and conditions, both between different work groups on the same site and between the sites themselves, led to frustration and ill-will, promoted wage-leapfrogging and in short was a principal cause of labour unrest.

"Acceptance of a national scheme would go far in bringing order to the industry," Mr Singleton said. "We believe the scheme is rational and sensible, and should gain approval."

Previous attempts to reach agreement have floundered not because of a lack of good will, but because of the complexity of finding a satisfactory formula. Such an agreement had to satisfy the aspirations of seven unions, five of them skilled.

It had to meet the needs of two employers' organizations—the Oil and Chemical Plant Constructors' Association, and the Engineering Employers' Federation—with separate traditions, different methods of recruiting and organizing their workforces, and pay settlement dates six months apart.

It also had to win the approval of clients, some of whom had in the past encouraged bad practices of buying themselves out of trouble in defiance of existing agreements.

The working party has now produced a report setting out the composition of an administrative body, and procedural and disciplinary arrangements. The report has the unanimous backing of working party members.

Mr J. W. Seabright, Chairman, MPT Furniture Centres Limited, North End Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 0AY, November 14.

We determined we would fight the case. The tribunal was held at the High Court, 70 miles from our head office, and lasted for three hours. We instructed a solicitor, our personnel manager also attended and

claim under the Sex Discrimination Act.

The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service appointed a conciliator officer and settlement figures were mentioned from £520 to £200—which were rejected by us. The claimant then referred the matter again to the Equal Opportunities Commission who, I understand, advised him to proceed with the claim.

So far you may feel the sequence of events was understandable. It might have been had there been any truth in the claim. But the facts were that not only was the job not restricted to women but one of the only four men who applied was appointed and he had five years' relevant experience. How could the EOC possibly believe that the unsuccessful applicant had a claim in the face of those facts?

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Employment protection law and its affect on small companies

From Mr J. W. Seabright

Sir, In recent months there has been a lot of discussion about employment protection legislation and its possible discouraging effect on employment, especially in small companies. Frequently I have seen it stated that the present legislation is not disincentive because "the majority of industrial tribunal cases are won by the employer". My company has just "won" a case before an industrial tribunal and our readers may be interested to know both the facts and the implications.

We recently opened a new store in the Isle of Wight and interviewed many applicants for, among other jobs, the post of stock controller. We had six interviewers who interviewed 61 people at the job centre, 57 women and four men.

An applicant alleged subsequently that one of our interviewers whispered to him that the job he was applying for was "for women only". He complained to the Equal Opportunities Commission who, I understand, advised him to submit a

claim under the Sex Discrimination Act.

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We determined we would fight the case. The tribunal was held at the High Court, 70 miles from our head office, and lasted for three hours. We instructed a solicitor, our personnel manager also attended and

we had to provide four of the six interviewers to be available as witnesses—we were fortunately able to exclude two who did not tally with the description given by the applicant of his interviewer.

The cost to the company in legal and travelling expenses and wasted management time has been considerable! I am sure that you would say "why didn't you pay the £200 and have done with it?"

We believe that as a major retailer we cannot give in to demands of this sort, and that if we were to do so, it would be even more frequent vexatious claims than we experience at the moment. But when news of this absurd case is reported in the local press, I wonder how many small employers will decide that the recruitment of more staff is a hazard that they can well do without?

Yours etc,  
J. W. SEABRIGHT,  
Chairman,  
MPT Furniture Centres Limited,  
North End Road,  
Wembley,  
Middlesex, HA9 0AY,  
November 14.

### Why Post Office telephone vans were painted yellow

From Mr I. H. Sless

Sir, Mr Sless (November 13) has got it wrong about the Post Office's colours. The decision to change the colour of the telecommunications vehicles from green (not red) to yellow has little to do with the change in the then General Post Office's status, but it had a lot to do with safety.

Yellow vehicles are much easier to spot on the road than green ones or those of any other colour except in my view, white. It was for the same reason that British Rail decided to paint the front of its trains yellow. As telephone kiosks are scarce why should they not, with the present exceptions, stay red?

Yours sincerely,  
I. H. SLESS,  
New Milton,  
Hants, BH25 5JR,  
November 13.

From Mr Jack Griffiths  
Sir, Mr Sless's suggestion (November 13) that the colour of telephone boxes should be changed to yellow may be well intentioned but falls into what I would describe as the "ideal but not vital" category.

In Malta recently, I noticed that many of the British mail post boxes remain in use, still proclaiming "B.I.R." some five

years after independence. No doubt the Maltese would like to replace these reminders of the past but having decided that the existing boxes are satisfactory, have many years of useful life left, and would cost money to replace, they leave well alone.

The lesson for us here, in these days of financial stringency, is clear. Mr Sless's suggestion is a classic case of "the ideal but not vital" category.

Yours sincerely,  
A. J. PRETLOVE,  
10 Brunswick Hill,  
Reading,  
November 13.

From Mr A. J. Pretlove  
Sir, Your letter from Mr Sless (November 13) concerning the desirability of yellow telephone boxes prompts me to write to you (and him) if he "wants to travel the few miles from Bracknell to Reading (General Railway Station) to see two yellow and operational telephone boxes on the main road bound platform. These boxes, however, are not yellow, but a faded blue one. I suppose these must be a reason.

Yours sincerely,  
A. J. PRETLOVE,  
10 Brunswick Hill,  
Reading,  
November 13.

### A case for backdating tax changes

From Mr Kurt Klappholz

Sir, The present Government frequently claims that, in contrast to its predecessor, it has a sound understanding of the manner in which individuals act in markets. Yet, both in his Budget speech, and again in his speech at "a conference of businessmen" last Monday (as reported by you, November 13), the Chancellor suggests that "he must now... capital transfer and capital gains taxes."

Such an announcement can only induce wealth holders, who might wish to dispose of some assets, to postpone doing so until these suggested changes are, inevitably, definitely abandoned. This can only serve the public interest, and could be easily avoided by the simple announcement that any possible benefits from future tax changes will be backdated to a certain date, before anyone expects what might be the Chancellor's next move.

Yours faithfully,  
KURT KLAPPHOLZ,  
Reader in Economics,  
Department of Economics,  
The London School of Economics and Political Science,  
Houghton Street,  
London WC2A 2AE,  
November 13.

## Making VAT a discriminating tax

From Mr J. R. Brummell

Sir, I agree with Mr J. M. Lesley (Letters, November 13) in his remarks about VAT, but I could not support his idea of a tax on energy and raw materials.

VAT has little to do with the classic canons of equity, economy, convenience and certainty, though they do "spell EEC, and we must not forget that a percentage of VAT goes to the Treasury, as its "own" revenue. So if we got rid of VAT we would be reducing the amount we paid to Brussels very considerably. That would be something.

However, if we then had an EEC tax on energy we would be making the same incredible error because we are the biggest source of energy in the Community.

In any case it would be quite uneconomic to tax energy. Energy and raw materials are the sources of wealth. They are used to produce further wealth. We do not want to inhibit the production of wealth. What we want to tax is the consumption of personal and essential wealth.

This means that we must have a "discriminating" tax. Supporters of VAT actually claim that its lack of discrimination is a virtue, but we should not tax things like the repair and maintenance of property, nor should we tax things like farm fertiliser when the tax is immediately reclaimed in the end.

The first thing to do with VAT is to reduce drastically the number of firms who are registered for the tax. Retailers should normally not be registered.

Next we should make a very big reduction in the number of transactions which are

subject to tax. This could be achieved by allowing goods to be sold tax free to other registered firms as in the case of the purchase tax. This would end the vast quantity of claims for repayment.

VAT should also end the concepts of "zero" rating and "exempt". There should be one concept only—"exempt". Having simplified and clarified the tax, the tax staff would be able to give more help and guidance to the firms who carried the burden.

Let us not jump out of the frying pan into the fire. We would do better to climb out from under the VAT tax and back into the fire.

Yours sincerely,  
J. R. BRUMMELL,  
White Cottage,  
127 Staplers Road,  
Newport,  
Isle of Wight,  
November 13.

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### Association angry at court challenges to its rules

## Government keeps out of ABTA restrictive practices hearings

By Edward Townsend

The Government has made clear to the British travel industry that it will not interfere in the reference of the rules of the Association of British Travel Agents, which govern the activities of the majority of United Kingdom retail agents and tour operators, to the Restrictive Practices Court.

According to senior ABTA representatives, the Government's view, expressed during informal discussions, is that the case should take its course and that ministers want to be seen to be impartial.

ABTA will join the Stock Exchange as the first service organisations, as opposed to traders or manufacturers, to face scrutiny under the terms of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1976. This was designed to toughen competition policy by extending legislation to services as well as goods.

The ABTA rule will be the first of the two cases to come to court, although the hearing is not expected to take place until the spring of 1981.

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, announced in the Commons three weeks ago that the Stock Exchange could not be exempted from the legislation and ABTA leaders feel that there is little point in further attempts at convincing the Government that theirs is a special case.

Both bodies are angry at having to defend in court what they consider to be proper and

efficient systems which are not against the public interest.

The ABTA case will revolve around the operation of the Stabiliser, the set of rules which forbids a member tour operator from selling his products other than through an ABTA travel agent and vice versa. The association argues that only through such rules can it effectively operate its bonding scheme which protects travellers in the event of a failure of a member.

Funds for the bond are collected by a committee of ABTA which also requires members to submit their annual accounts for examination.

Travel industry leaders say that the only alternative is for the Government to take this responsibility and establish a state-controlled mechanism. Such a move, they feel, would contradict the present Government's policies of disentangling industry and cutting public spending.

One senior ABTA member said: "If there was a major disaster such as the Court Line collapse of a few years ago, nobody in the Government would have the know-how of the facilities to mount such a rescue operation and bring home thousands of people from all over the world."

"There is so much consumer protection built into the Stabiliser that having become accustomed of our own protection, we are now extremely worried about what would replace it."

ABTA registered its rules with the Office of Fair Trading last year and the OFT referred the issue to the court in December, 1978. It has taken almost a year for the Treasury solicitor to act on behalf of the OFT, to notify all ABTA members and the association has until the end of this year to prepare and submit a statement of case.

The growing practice of travel companies selling package holidays directly through their own outlets and bypassing ABTA travel agents is seen by some as evidence that the travel industry is in the throes of change and that ABTA may be forced to adapt because of market pressures.

Certainly there is a small body of opinion within the industry which would prefer ABTA to bow to the inevitable and spend funds it will use on defending itself—conservatively estimated at £100,000 on helping to ensure that the association survives.

A large number of other so-called service agreements have been registered with the OFT since the Act came into force, and officials are in discussion with several of them in the hope that amendments can be agreed instead of referring the cases to court.

Among the bodies whose agreements are being investigated are the National Association of Bookmakers, the Society of West End Theatres, the British Posters Advertising Association and the Association of Independent Radio Contractors.

### Ships may be exempt from competition legislation

By Geoffrey Browning

Parliamentary Staff  
A strong indication that the Government will give sympathetic consideration to excluding the shipping industry from the provisions of the Competition Bill was given by Mr Norman Tebbit, Under-Secretary for Trade, yesterday.

Mr Tebbit said at a meeting of the Standing Committee considering the Bill that the Government had the greatest sympathy with the plight of the industry, and its case would certainly be borne in mind when it came to consider what exemptions should be made by order when the Bill had received Royal Assent.

The Competition Bill provides for the selective investigation and control of practices which restrict competition. The amendment to exempt international shipping services was moved by Mr Alistair Goodlad (Northwich, C), who argued that it would be difficult for any shipping company's legal adviser to say whether a particular practice would be considered uncompetitive.

"The companies would play safe and many activities which would have promoted British shipping and increase its enormously valuable contribution to the economy could not be taken for fear they might be subject to a reference under the Bill."

The effect on the British industry would be damaging, because other countries could react with counter-measures against British shipping.

### Massey Ferguson launches company to use closed plants

By Ronald Faux

Massey Ferguson said yesterday it was setting up a company to attract new industry to its factory at Kilmarnock, Scotland, which is to close in February with the loss of 1,500 jobs.

The Canadian-controlled agricultural machinery group has been forced to end production in Scotland because of cumulative worldwide losses amounting to \$9.5m (about £4.8m) in the first nine months of this year.

The new company, as yet unnamed, will have as chairman Mr Harry Hebdon, United Kingdom managing director of Massey Ferguson. Two other Massey Ferguson directors, including the financial controller, will also be on the board.

The Scottish plant built combined harvesters. In its attempt to attract other companies to take over all or part of the factory, the new company is prepared to offer attractive terms for the plant and machinery to any firm with rational proposals to secure jobs.

To the factory's credit is an excellent record of industrial relations, a stable workforce, a range of engineering machinery with a wide variety of possible uses, the financial help of a special development area and for fear they might be subject to a reference under the Bill.

"Our chances of getting an occupier to take over the whole plant with the 1,500 workers are possible but remote."

The new company would be willing to go into joint ventures with other companies and Massey Ferguson would be prepared to put up the machinery in the factory as their contribution towards the equity. They see the ideal solution as a three-way partnership between the new company, the Government (probably through the Scottish Development Agency) and a third party.

Through industrial consultants a "work search" had begun to identify new uses and users for the factory. Internationally the search had already spotted two vehicle companies, an aerospace company, a mechanical handling design group and a company already in Scotland seeking extra capacity.

Results locally had been even more encouraging. Sixteen of 70 companies in Strathclyde, which could have uses for the factory press shop, had already been approached. Seven saw ways in which the plant would be valuable.

Mr Samuel Kay, convener of shop stewards, said that the men had rejected the idea of setting up a workers' cooperative because of the track record of such enterprises in Britain. "The top priority must be to save jobs and we are willing to co-operate with the management and Government in doing that," he said.

Higher tonnage was mainly imported bulk goods rather than the finished products which performed "disappointingly".

Developments this year include a banana terminal at Newport, a car terminal at Southampton, a coal terminal at Carston, and widening of the dock entrance at Lowestoft.

Sir Humphrey said that BTDB's quarter share of the industry would probably grow, especially in container and car traffic, but that it would always be a minority.

In contrast to London, where redundancy is financed by the taxpayer, the board's proposed port of Hull had made a £3.5m profit after last year's £1m loss.

### Docks board profits down despite rise in turnover

By Michael Baily

Transport Correspondent  
Profits at the state-owned British Transport Docks Board are expected to be £2m to £3m down on last year's record £29.5m, chairman Sir Humphrey Browne disclosed yesterday.

He blamed the 17 per cent fall on gloom over recession, inflation and subsiding lameduck rivals such as London and Liverpool. Lorry strikes and other difficulties at the beginning of the year were also to blame.

Despite this, the board continued as a "growth company in a static industry", with a 12 per cent increase in turnover in the first half of the year to £135m, and a 5 per cent rise in tonnage.

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Local plans 'nightmare' for business

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent  
Local authority planning procedures can be a nightmare of complexity for small businesses, Mr David Nickson, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's Scottish office, said yesterday. Speaking at a conference on "Construction for Industrial Recovery", he called for greater flexibility by local planners towards the needs of industry.

A company may have to deal at the same time with both regional and district councils, national government bodies, and a maze of complex and sometimes inconsistent building regulations," he said.

"Many of these seem to the manager of a business quite irrelevant to the prime purpose of achieving a return on an investment. Speaking at a conference on "Construction for Industrial Recovery", he called for greater flexibility by local planners towards the needs of industry.

German, French, American and Australian industries were astonished that it took British businessmen so long to move from the planning stage to commissioning, said Mr Nickson. "We need more urgency and less bureaucracy in our planning processes."

Iran asks Japan to postpone oil payments

Iran has asked Japanese trading and oil companies to postpone their oil payments, a government official said yesterday in Tokyo. The move follows Iran's announcement on Wednesday that it would pull out reserves from United States banks and President Jimmy Carter's declaration that the United States would freeze Iranian assets.

Iran's request for postponement of payments until today was made apparently out of fear that oil payments from Japan, made normally through United States banks, would also be frozen, according to Japanese officials.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS IMPORTANT TO SHAREHOLDERS AND REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. IF YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT WHAT ACTION TO TAKE YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR STOCKBROKER, BANK MANAGER, SOLICITOR, ACCOUNTANT OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVISER IMMEDIATELY.

## MINET HOLDINGS LIMITED ("Minet") AND CORROON & BLACK CORPORATION ("Corroon")

The following joint announcement by Minet and Corroon, a New York-based insurance broking firm, was made on 14th November 1979. A circular has been posted to all Shareholders of Minet setting out the text of the announcement.

"The Board of Corroon announces that Corroon proposes to increase its interest in Minet to 20 per cent of Minet's issued share capital. Corroon presently owns approximately 4.8 per cent of such share capital. Corroon intends to increase its interest by purchases in the market over a reasonable period of time commencing on Monday, 19th November.

The approval of the Committee of Lloyd's has been sought and obtained to the proposed investment by Corroon and the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers has been consulted.

The Board of Corroon has indicated that it is its belief that this investment in Minet will greatly solidify its increasingly productive relationship with Minet and that the investment is an indication of Corroon's strong confidence in the Minet management team.

The Board of Minet welcomes this interest by Corroon and proposes to invite two representatives of Corroon to join the Board of Minet as non-executive directors.

Corroon has assured the Board of Minet that it will abide by the regulations of the Committee of Lloyd's regarding foreign control and that it will not use its holding to elect more than two non-executive directors to the Board of Minet nor increase its percentage shareholding without the prior approval of Minet's Board.

The Boards of Corroon and Minet are both confident that they can identify many areas of opportunity where together they can better serve their respective clients and at the same time benefit their respective shareholders. They plan to continue their discussions on the development of a profit-sharing arrangement as jointly announced earlier this year, and it is the view of both Boards that this investment will be complementary to the proposed profit-sharing arrangement."

The Board of Minet has requested The Stock Exchange to suspend the listing in their company's shares until Monday, 19th November 1979 in order that shareholders may have time to consult their professional advisers.



مركز من الرأصد



## Masters of musical performance and the ballet

## Sir Ernest Bullock

Sir Ernest Bullock, CVO, FRGO, FRCSM, who died on May 23, at the age of 83, was a former organist of Westminster Abbey and subsequently was Director of the Royal College of Music from 1953 to 1960. He was also between the occupancy of those two posts. Professor of music in the University of Glasgow. That he was able to get to the top of one, but for three years in the field of music, was due largely to his character, partly to his luck in the sense that he was well placed by age and circumstance to fill those vacancies as they occurred, and partly to a sound musicianship.

He was born at Wigan on September 5, 1896, and was educated at Wigan Grammar School. His father, who got from a rigorous apprenticeship to Sir Edward Elgar, was a Leeds Parish Church organist. He was assistant organist from 1907 to 1912, when he went to Manchester Cathedral as assistant to Sydney Nicholson. War interrupted his career till, on his return from active service abroad, he was appointed organist at St. Andrew's Church, Wigan, in February, 1919. But by the end of that year, he was appointed to Exeter Cathedral, where he remained till he was lifted to Westminster Abbey in 1924. Here he had been doing routine work, the supervision of number of royal occasions, of which the chief was the Coronation of 1937. The fact that he composed for it, he has been widely noted at St. Andrew's and Edinburgh, and the care for detail and such running as well as the capability of his taste and executive ability as conductor was proof of three different aspects of his character.

During his time in London he conducted the Westminster Abbey Special Chorus, taught at the Royal College of Music and was director of studies in the School of Church Music.

His career had been mostly in church music, but in 1941 he was offered the dual post of Principal of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, which he found easier to accept from the fact that the Abbey choir was evacuated during the war. The Glasgow post had been occupied by Dr. W. G. Whitburn, who, for various reasons, had had to leave, and it was a Glasgow post, which he found easier to accept from the fact that the Abbey choir was evacuated during the war. The Glasgow post had been occupied by Dr. W. G. Whitburn, who, for various reasons, had had to leave, and it was a Glasgow post, which he found easier to accept from the fact that the Abbey choir was evacuated during the war.

## Mr Kurt Jooss

Kurt Jooss died on May 22 in hospital at Heidelberg after an accident while working on his 78th birthday. He was born in 1897 in the village of Herten, near Dortmund, and was one of his many talents. He was a dancer, choreographer, and director. He was a member of the Weimar Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic. He was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic.

There he formed a group, the Neue Tanzbühne, which became the Folkwang Tanztheater. He was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic. He was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic.

The company continued, with Jooss as director, until 1933, when it was disbanded. He was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic. He was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic.

Mr Stan Kenton, the jazz bandleader, composer and pianist, died at the end of August at the age of 65. He was born in 1914 in Wichita, Kansas, and was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic.

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M LEONIDE MASSINE  
Lasting influence on choreography

Leonide Massine, seen here rehearsing with dancer Noleen Nicol steps for Falla's "The Three Cornered Hat", performed by the London Festival Ballet at the Coliseum.

Leonide Massine, who died on March 15, at the age of 83, was a Russian ballet dancer and choreographer. He was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic. He was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic.

Some of Massine's most famous ballets date from the early years, notably *The Three Cornered Hat* and *Les Femmes d'Alger*. He was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic. He was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic.

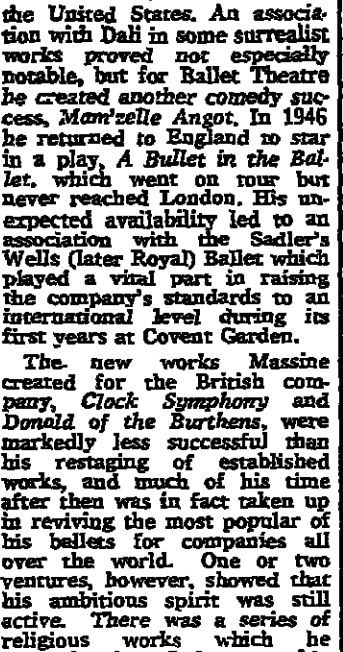
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Mr Charles Mingus, the modern jazz composer and bandleader, died on January 6, at the age of 58. He was born in 1922 in Nogales, Arizona, and was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic.

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Marjorie Lawrence, the Australian-born dramatic soprano, whose death at the age of 69 was reported on January 25, overcame severe polio, which struck her down in 1941, to continue a career as a notable operatic singer.

Marjorie Lawrence was born in the state of Victoria, studied singing in Paris and New York and made her debut with the Monte Carlo Opera in 1932. She was a member of the German Democratic Republic and was a member of the German Democratic Republic.

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**INCURABLE?**  
-Yes  
**UNHAPPY?**  
-No

The British Home and Hospital for incurables specializes in looking after men and women suffering from progressive paralytic diseases. Sufferers from these diseases need very special care and attention.

Some are fit enough to go out to work. These live in a special wing of the Home. Some are helpless, bedridden... these unhappy ones are in the hospital, nursed, amused, cared for.

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bituaries Supplement

# Varied roles of the lawyer in public life

## SIR OTTO KAHN-FREUND Scholar who was Nazi victim

Sir Otto Kahn-Freund, F.R.A., Professor of Comparative Law, University of Oxford, died on August 16, 1979, at the age of 78. He was Arthur Schmitt Professor of Law at the London School of Economics, died on August 16, 1979, at the age of 78. He was Arthur Schmitt Professor of Law at the London School of Economics, died on August 16, 1979, at the age of 78.

Among the many brilliant men who have been in England in the 1930s, Sir Otto Kahn-Freund was pre-eminent in two respects. First, he was a brilliant scholar, and secondly, he was a brilliant lawyer.

Moreover, before settling in England, he had spent over a year in Germany, and he had lived in the United States—his maternal grandfather lived for much of his life in America, and had joined United States citizenship.

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same university, who first aroused his interest in what became two of his major fields of study: law and comparative law.

After he had obtained his doctorate and completed his final law examination he spent over a year in England and the United States, and he began the study of English law which served him in good stead later. He himself said, however, that at this time the thought of abandoning Germany never occurred to him. On his return there in 1928 he joined the judicial service and was appointed a judge in the courts of Berlin, serving for most of the time in the Landgericht.

When he returned to London, Kahn-Freund played a major role in coping with the greatly increased number of students, and cheerfully bore a teaching burden that would have broken a man of lesser energy. He spent some months in the United States in 1951 and was the visiting Professor at the Yale Law School, with which he established a connection that lasted the rest of his life. He refused an attractive offer of the Chair in Comparative Law there but returned for short annual visits to lecture in law, and comparative law. He also taught at several other American universities, and was much in demand as a lecturer in Germany.

added family law, and he played a large part in causing these subjects to become accepted parts of the curriculum in most English law faculties.

During the war he was never interned or deported and became naturalized as a British subject in 1940. He divided his time between his teaching duties and his work for the Ministry of Labour, and to the B.C.R. German services. At the end of the war he worked for a time in the legal research unit of the Control Commission for Germany.

In 1964 he was offered the Chair of Comparative Law at Oxford, recently vacated by Professor R. H. Lawson. After much hesitation, he decided to accept, feeling that at the age of 43 (though he looked 10 years younger) he was in a position to do a great deal of work. He had already written a number of papers on the field of conflict of laws and labour law. He was a co-editor of the seventh edition of Dicey's *Conflict of Laws* and had contributed to many symposia on aspects of comparative law, comparative labour law, and comparative social law.

Lord Morris of Borth-y-Gest, PC, CH, CBE, MC, who became a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary in 1963, died on June 9, at the age of 82.

His tall, well-built figure and handsome features made him easily recognizable even in a crowd, and his manner and some of his personal characteristics were a delight to those who knew him. In his work he was conscientious almost to a fault. His manner in listening to a case was always quiet and his evidence never failing. In the society and determination to arrive at the truth and justice of a problem every point which could be taken for or against a case was carefully and thoroughly examined and adequately dealt with. It would have been alien to him to have come to a snap decision or unreasonably to hasten the hearing of a case.

John William Morris, the son of Daniel Morris, of Liverpool and Portmadoc, was born on September 11, 1896. He was educated at the Liverpool Institute, and then at the University of Liverpool, where he was elected to a scholarship in 1914, and which he left in 1914 to join the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

He saw service in France, reaching the rank of captain in 1917, and was awarded the Cross of St. George.

On demobilization he went to Trinity Hall, Cam-

bridge (of which he was made an Hon. Fellow in 1951). He took a first in the Law Tripos in 1919, and in the same year, 1919, he was elected President of the Cambridge Union.

He enjoyed the distinction, in 1920, of being awarded the Joseph Hodgson Chalmers Memorial Fellowship at Harvard University, where he remained for a year. In 1921 he was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple, of which he became a Bencher in 1943 and Treasurer in 1967. A Liverpool solicitor, it was the wish of his family that he should take silk, but he had in 1923 and 1924, unsuccessfully contested the Lord Division in the Liberal interest.

He was a member of the H. Thomas in the Budgetary Inquiry in 1936. From 1938 to 1945 he held the office of Judge of Appeal in the Isle of Man, in succession to Mr. R. H. Chappell, KC, a post which he held with able and efficient assistance from the Northern Circuit, where his rise was rapid. The success which he achieved justified his taking silk in 1945, after which his career was devoted to the Bench.

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robust, Streetfield stood up to the strains imposed by his judicial duties. When he was made a Doctor of Civil Law, *honoris causa*, of Durham University in 1957, he was presented in a speech which included the words: "We in the County of Stow, Eildon and Wright easily take to our hearts our able lawyers, and it would be very difficult for us not to warm to Mr. Justice Streetfield. He is a judge of great excellence and without a man of great kindness and helpfulness, which makes envy of his success impossible and our own pride in him inevitable and pardonable."

Streetfield married in 1918 Maj. Gen. the younger daughter of Charles South. They had three daughters.

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issues will readily appreciate how the burden is increased by the knowledge that the answer given is final. He was also Chairman of the National Reference Tribunal under the Coal Mining Industry Conciliation Scheme.

Further promotion came in 1960 when Morris was appointed as Lord of Appeal in Ordinary (succeeding Lord Somervell of Harrow) with the title of Baron Morris of Borth-y-Gest, in the county of Caernarvon. In the following year he became Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Administration of the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876.

Though the life of a law lord concerned with appeals to the House of Lords and to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is onerous and exacting, Morris's extra-judicial work was not finished. From February, 1963, he chaired the committee on jury service.

From 1939 to 1943 Morris was Deputy-Chairman of Caernarvonshire Quarter Sessions and Chairman 1943 to 1969.

Morris was an honorary member of the Canadian and of the American Bar Associations; a member of the University Grants Committee and Hon. LL.D. of the Universities of Wales of which he was pro Vice-Chancellor 1956-74; and of British Columbia, and a D.L. of Caernarvonshire. To an already full life he added the Presidency of the London Welsh Association from 1951 to 1953. He was made CBE in 1975.

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robust, Streetfield stood up to the strains imposed by his judicial duties. When he was made a Doctor of Civil Law, *honoris causa*, of Durham University in 1957, he was presented in a speech which included the words: "We in the County of Stow, Eildon and Wright easily take to our hearts our able lawyers, and it would be very difficult for us not to warm to Mr. Justice Streetfield. He is a judge of great excellence and without a man of great kindness and helpfulness, which makes envy of his success impossible and our own pride in him inevitable and pardonable."

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# Scientific research and discovery

## Professor P. W. Brian

Professor Percy Wragg Brian, CBE, FRS, who was Head of the Cambridge Botany School from 1968 to 1977, died on August 12, 1979, at the age of 68. After a period as assistant mycologist at the Long Ashton Research Station from 1934, he spent the next 25 years in the employment of ICI Ltd, where he worked firstly on various diseases of crops. In 1946, he was transferred to their new Acker Research Laboratories at Welwyn, as head of the Department of Microbiology; he and his staff pursued there a programme of fundamental research with a freedom worthy of a university, making contributions of outstanding importance in their studies of antibiotics and then of the plant growth hormone, gibberellic acid.

Percy Brian was born on September 5, 1910 at Birmingham, and was educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham, whence he went to King's College, Cambridge, in 1928. After taking the Natural Sciences Tripos, he graduated with first-class honours in 1931 and was later awarded the Frank Smart studentship in botany as the best student of his year. He obtained the PhD degree in 1936, and the ScD in 1951. He was elected a Fellow of Queens' College in 1968.

Brian's most productive period in research was at Welwyn, from 1946 to 1962. There, with his associates, he discovered a wide range of new antibiotics produced by fungi. The one of greatest interest was griseofulvin; Brian himself showed that this antibiotic interfered with the growth of susceptible fungi by disrupting the normal development of the fungal cell-wall. As griseofulvin was non-toxic to mammals and acted specifically only against fungi, it was the ideal antibiotic for the control of fungal skin-infections of humans and animals; by the early seventies, the production of griseofulvin in the United Kingdom alone was valued at £2 million. This interest in fungal metabolic products with biological activity led Brian and his associates in the early fifties to the study of gibberellic acid; earlier work in Japan had shown that this substance was produced by the fungus causing the bakanae disease of rice, one symptom of which is the abnormal elongation of infected plants. Intensive investigation of the fungus, which produces gibberellic acid as a growth hormone in various cultivated plants led eventually to valuable applications in agriculture and horticulture. This work aroused immediate interest in botany, and it was no surprise to those in this country when Brian was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1958, at the early age (for a botanist) of 47. Later he served on its Council (1960-70), and he delivered the Leeuwenhoek Lecture in 1966.

Brian's time for personal research was cut short when he was appointed Regius Professor of Botany at Glasgow in 1962, and this was followed by his translation to Cambridge in 1968. Nevertheless, he continued to exert a powerful though unobtrusive influence on the general direction of research in both these departments and as an honorary director of the ARC Unit of Developmental Botany.

As a research student at Cambridge, Percy Brian had been noted for his lack of volubility, and this economy of words remained a characteristic of him, though less marked, even when he became an administrator. In later life, however, this sensitive, warm and friendly man became more extroverted. As an agricultural scientist, Percy Brian was much in demand; he was elected president of the British Mycological Society in 1955 and again in 1965, as an honorary member of the Society for General Microbiology in 1965 and of the Cambridge Philosophical Society in 1972. He served as a member of the Agricultural Research Council from 1966 to 1976. In 1975, he was created CBE and in 1978 received an honorary DSc from the University of Hull.

His marriage in 1935 to Iris Hunt, by whom he had a son and two daughters was dissolved in 1947 and in 1948 he married Margaret Gilling.

## Dr D. A. Bannerman

Dr D. A. Bannerman, OBE, who died on April 6, 1979, at the age of 92, was a distinguished ornithologist.

David Armitage Bannerman was born on November 27, 1886. He was at school at Wellington and went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 1905. His passion was for natural history, but his health was not good and he had to be content with a pass degree. In 1910 he joined the staff of the British Museum (Natural History) as an honorary assistant, and was free to travel in various parts of the world as a naturalist and, in particular, to make a zoological survey of the Canary Islands.

Unfit for military service, in the First World War he worked first as a driver and later on

## SIR ERNST CHAIN Nobel prize for penicillin



Sir Ernst Chain, who shared a Nobel Prize with Alexander Fleming and Howard Florey in 1945 for work which led to the introduction of penicillin into medicine, died on August 12, 1979, at the age of 73.

Ernst Boris Chain, who shared a Nobel Prize with Alexander Fleming and Howard Florey in 1945 for work which led to the introduction of penicillin into medicine, died on August 12, 1979, at the age of 73.

Chain was born in Berlin on June 19, 1906, the son of a chemist and industrialist of Russian origin, and graduated in chemistry and physics at the Friedrich-Wilhelm University in Berlin in 1929. His research in the Institute of Pathology at the Charité Hospital. He later made a point of stating that he then left Germany, as a Jew, because of racial persecution and realism was added to these statements by his display, during the war, of a printed Gestapo list on which his name appeared. After a short stay in University College Hospital Medical School, London, he went to work at Cambridge under Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins and obtained a PhD in 1935. In the same year, Dr. Walter Florey (later Lord Florey) took up the Chair of Pathology in Oxford and the coincidence of these two events was responsible for a major turning point in Chain's life. For some years Florey had believed that experimental pathology would benefit from the collaboration of pathologists with chemists, but the finance required for him to become available after his arrival in Oxford at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology. He then inquired in Cambridge for a suitable biochemist and Hopkins suggested Chain.

In Oxford Chain began to work on the biochemistry of snake venoms, but later, at Florey's suggestion, he took up a study of hypoxanthine, a substance which Fleming which dissolves certain bacteria. This study led him to look into the already extensive literature on naturally-occurring antimicrobial products and his discovery of penicillin, an enzyme able to destroy penicillin and responsible for the resistance to it of some bacteria.

After the spectacular and gratifying success of their joint project, Chain's personal relationship with Florey rapidly deteriorated. One apparent cause was that he would be denied the recognition he believed to be his due, and persistent in his demand to be provided with a pilot plant to continue the study of antibiotics, for which there was no sign of money being forthcoming, he became incompatible with Florey's very different personality. In 1948 he left Oxford to organize a department of biochemistry and set up a fermentation plant in Rome, where he remained for 13 years as Scientific Director of the International Research Centre for Chemical Microbiology.

During this time he was partly responsible for the initiation of a line of work which culminated in a further important advance in chemotherapy. When consulted in 1954 by the chairman of Beecham, who wished the company to enter the field of antibiotics, he suggested that attempts should be made to modify the penicillin molecule rather than to search for entirely new antibiotics. Four members of the company went to work in Rome in 1955 and obtained evidence for the presence of a new penicillin-like substance in penicillin fermentations. On their return home they characterized the substance as the nucleus of the penicillin molecule, 6-aminopenicillanic acid, whose existence had earlier been reported, unknown to them, in Japan. By the chance coupling of different side-chains to this nucleus a series of important new penicillins were produced, effective against bacteria which were resistant to penicillins obtainable by fermentation.

In 1961 Chain returned to England and became Professor of Biochemistry at Imperial College, London, a post he held until 1973. He obtained financial support through Sir Isaac Wolfson, who provided funds for a new building in which he and Dr. P. Abraham covered penicillinase, an enzyme able to destroy penicillin.

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## PROFESSOR DENNIS GABOR Work on the electron microscope



Professor Dennis Gabor, CBE, FRS, who won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1951, died on February 9 at the age of 78.

Dennis Gabor, son of a Hungarian businessman, was born on June 5, 1900. After his studies in Hungary, Gabor entered the Technische Hochschule Charlottenburg in 1921 and received his Diplom in 1924 and Dr. Ing. in 1927. A brief period working for the German Research Association for High Voltage Physics was followed by his first major appointment, as a research engineer in the physics laboratories of Siemens & Halske, A.G. The use of high pressure gas discharges as lamps was in its infancy and Gabor's work was directed towards obtaining a clearer understanding of the complex physical processes in gas discharges. The first of his many inventions emerged from this period at Siemens & Halske, a simple means of sealing high pressure lamps by using a tape of molybdenum or tantalum. This sealing technique is still used, on high-pressure quartz lamps.

By 1933 the political situation in Berlin made it evident that he should move elsewhere, and after a brief return to Hungary he accepted in 1934 a post with the British Thomson-Houston Co., Rugby. R.T.H. had interests both in gas discharge lamps and in electron microscopy and it was natural that Gabor should work on these.

The first electron microscope was constructed at Charlottenburg, using some of the principles of the oscillograph which Gabor had built for his own work. During the war-time period, 1939-45, R.T.H. were one of the major manufacturers of radar and responsible for the development of the magnetron, the high-power transmitting tube which made centimetre radar possible. Gabor was excluded from this work as he was regarded as an enemy alien. Perhaps this was fortunate for it gave him the opportunity to pursue his own research lines and these led to two major developments—holography and a theory of communication.

The electron microscope is capable of providing images with very high resolution because the effective wavelength of high velocity electrons is very short. Early microscopes failed to achieve this resolution because of the poor quality of the lenses used to focus the electron beam. The obvious solution was to improve the quality of the lenses but Gabor had the vision to recognize an alternative and much more fundamental approach—to accept the poor quality of the electron microscopes but to reconstruct the original object by optical lenses compensating the electron lens defects. The resulting picture, the "hologram", was an assembly of diffraction patterns which when illuminated by a light beam, recovered the original object as a three-dimensional image.

The original aim of improving the performance of electron microscopes was not realized until recently, but the invention of the laser, ten years after Gabor's papers, provided a powerful coherent optical source and interest in holography was reawakened. The holographic principle has been extended to radar and ultrasonics, and the generation of holograms by computers is another growing field. Gabor may justly be credited with inventing a complete new field of science.

The second of Gabor's major contributions, which was largely in the field of communication, the fundamental problem in electrical communication is how to make best use of a limited range of frequencies. Nyquist in 1928 had the foundation of a theory of the rate at which telegraph signals could

be transmitted, but no other major development occurred until Gabor's paper of 1946 on "Theory of Communication". He broke away from the conventional representation of communication signals as a series of time samples by introducing the concept of the "signal space", a basic element, represented in the time-frequency plane, recognizing the inherent uncertainty in attempting to define time and frequency simultaneously. Like holography, this was work ahead of its time.

In 1948, Gabor was invited to fill the post of Reader in Electron Physics at Imperial College, London. He became Professor of Electron Physics in 1958 and remained on the staff of the College until his retirement in 1967. Both as Reader and Professor he produced a steady stream of ideas.

Inevitably there were failures, but there were also brilliant technical successes such as the flat television tube in which he pushed electron lens design to its limits. His appetite for work was prodigious—an eighty-hour week was standard. In his later years Gabor was greatly pre-occupied with the problems of the future, and his inaugural lecture in 1958 had contained a prediction of the possibility of constructing machines to simulate thought but coupled with the warning: "Absolute power will corrupt absolutely, and provide a person's book inventing the future" (1963) identified three dangers—self destruction by war, overpopulation and instability arising from too much leisure. He approached these as a "social engineer", seeking a "social solution". A more detailed commentary on the future was provided in *Intelligence, Science, Technology and Society* (1970), an assessment of developments to be expected in the next fifty years. He returned to his general theme in *The Mature Society*.

The breadth and quality of Gabor's contributions to science and engineering were recognized in many ways: he was elected an FRS in 1956; was an hon. member of many overseas societies; was appointed CBE in 1970; and won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1951.

His tenure of the keepership of the Natural History Museum, which he held from 1951 to 1955, was a period during which the importance of insects to man was highlighted both in the medical and the agricultural fields. He saw the collection growing fast, the staff expanding and the new entomology building being completed. During the Second World War many of his staff were seconded elsewhere or joined the Services, but he retained his office in South Kensington, though he continued to be active in the collection to be evacuated for safety, some as far away as the Lake District.

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Her early work on crustacean embryology, which set new standards, remains unsurpassed. She also studied development in members of a curious group, the Onychophora, whose peculiarities were felt by some to exclude them from the Arthropoda but which she showed to be related to specialized ways of life, the conifer upon which the ability to perform feats denied to more orthodox representatives of the group.

The Onychophora also provided a starting point for a large series of studies on arthropod locomotion which involved the elucidation of such complex matters as how centipedes and millipedes organize their gait, the force they can exert under different conditions, the mechanisms of leg extension and many related matters. These, like other studies, were beautifully illustrated by drawings, often of a high standard, for she was very skilled in the use of her hands. This skill she also employed in portraying the distribution of corals off parts of the Great Barrier Reef, as a visitor to a party on an expedition in 1929. Her arthropod work culminated in the publication of a large book in 1977. She also wrote a book on the breeding of colour point cats.

She held appointments at the universities of Cambridge and London, and was eventually an honorary worker at the British Museum of Natural History. In 1948 she was elected FRSc, one of the first women to achieve this honour. In 1937 she married John Philip Harding, generally known as "Zoot", at the British Museum. They had a daughter and an adopted son.

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## PROFESSOR OTTO FRISCH Outstanding successes in nuclear physics

Professor Otto Robert Frisch, CBE, FRSc, Jacksonian Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Cambridge from 1947 to 1972, who died on September 22 at the age of 74, was best known for the identification of the nuclear fission of uranium and for his realization of its explosive possibilities. His work in atomic and nuclear physics, including the discovery of the neutron, was characterized by a deep simplicity of understanding.

He was born in Vienna on October 1, 1904 and was the only son of Julius Frisch, a printer and publisher, a passionate rationalist and a famous wit. His mother's family was also brilliant; she was a concert pianist who had been a child prodigy but gave up the profession on her marriage; and her younger sister, Lise Meitner, was a distinguished physicist who collaborated with her nephew in his best-known discovery.

Educated at the Piaristen-Gymnasium and at the University of Vienna, where he graduated as doctor of philosophy in physics and mathematics when hardly 22 years of age, Robert Frisch moved to Berlin where he worked in the Reichsanstalt (the world's first national laboratory of physics) and then for a few months at the University.

His period of greatest activity in research began in 1929 when he joined the department of physical chemistry at the University of Hamburg. Within three years he had not only demonstrated, with Otto Stern, that atoms of helium behave as waves when they are reflected from the surfaces of crystals but had also made an elegant measurement (by a method basically invented by Stern and Walter Gerlach) of the magnetism of the nucleus of hydrogen. When Hitler's racial policy compelled his dismissal, he had commenced an entirely original investigation of the recoil of individual fission atoms when they emit light.

He went to London in the autumn of 1933 and worked for a year with P. M. S. Blackett in the old Birkbeck College where, with very simple equipment, he discovered two of the many new radioactive substances that were identified in the dramatic development of nuclear physics that took place in the mid-1930s. He found a third (sodium 22) in Copenhagen, where he spent five years in the Institute for Theoretical

Physics, a distinguished centre of experimental work also.

Niels Bohr, the Director of the Institute, had a great influence upon Frisch's development. For Bohr, nothing was scientifically important if it was not simple. Frisch's keen insight and his ability to design, make, and use simple but effective equipment were admirably suited to the environment. With various collaborators, he made several important measurements of various properties of neutrons, but the most spectacular outcome of his stay in Copenhagen came when, on his way to England, he visited Lise Meitner in Sweden and they heard of Hahn and Strassmann's discovery that uranium bombarded by neutrons gave rise to the much lighter element, barium. He and she realized that the uranium nucleus must be split into two or more fragments, that these must fly apart at high speed and would be readily detectable. They demonstrated this with apparatus that any physicist could put together in an afternoon, and they named the process (in English because their results were published in *Nature*) nuclear fission. It was an unconventional noun, of other no associated verbs, but it lived to become almost a household

word because a few physicists, Frisch among them, realized that details of the fission process which were rapidly investigated in 1939 made it likely that a highly explosive chain reaction could be achieved. Frisch's studies of the possibility were worked out with R. E. Peierls in Birmingham, whence he moved briefly to Liverpool and, as a British subject, to the United States Army's secret laboratory at Los Alamos, where the first nuclear weapons were made.

He returned to England in 1946 and was briefly head of the nuclear physics division at the Harwell Establishment until in 1947 the Energy Authority was created, becoming a Fellow of Trinity in 1948. In that same year he was elected FRSc.

Frisch's years in Cambridge were scientifically less fruitful than those he had spent working in the various laboratories; but after 1963 he had a remarkable success in developing, without any significant financial aid from outside, a beautiful automatic measuring machine, called "Sweepnik".

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During the First World War, Riley reached the rank of Captain, serving in the Army Ser-

vice Corps and The Queen's Regiment from 1914-1919 and was mentioned in despatches. On his return to civilian life he resumed work on butterflies at the Natural History Museum. His administrative ability became evident and he was promoted Deputy Keeper in 1921 and Keeper in 1932—a post he retained until his retirement at the age of 65 in 1955.

His tenure of the keepership caused a period during which the importance of insects to man was highlighted both in the medical and the agricultural fields. He saw the collection growing fast, the staff expanding and the new entomology building being completed. During the Second World War many of his staff were seconded elsewhere or joined the Services, but he retained his office in South Kensington, though he continued to be active in the collection to be evacuated for safety, some as far away as the Lake District.

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## COURT CIRCULAR

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 15: His Excellency Dr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja (Minister for Foreign Affairs), on behalf of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, this afternoon at Buckingham Palace received Mr. Jerry Wiggin, MP (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food).

Mr. B. A. Flack was received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Republic of Indonesia.

Mr. Flack had the honour of being received by Her Majesty. General Sir Peter Whiteley had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Jersey.

Lady Whiteley had the honour of being received by Her Majesty. Air Marshal Sir Anthony Selway had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon his appointment as Registrar and Secretary of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath and delivered up to Her Majesty the insignia of Office.

Rear-Admiral Colin Madden had the honour of being received by Her Majesty the insignia of Office as Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod and received from the Queen the insignia of Office as Secretary of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon his appointment as Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod and delivered up to Her Majesty the insignia of Office.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, were entertained at a banquet this evening by the President of the Republic of Indonesia and Madame Tien Soeharto at Claridge's.

The Duchess of Grafton and the Right Hon. Sir Philip Moore were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, the British Association for Commercial and Industrial Education (President, Professor Sir Frederick Warner) this evening delivered the Willis Jackson Lecture at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, W1.

Wing Commander Anthony Nicholson was in attendance. The Prince of Wales this morning at Buckingham Palace received Professor Sir George Porter.

His Royal Highness, Duke of Cornwall, presided at a meeting of the Prince's Council at 10 Buckingham Gate, SW1 and afterwards at Buckingham Palace, gave a luncheon for Members of the Council.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, the Lord Trevelyan (Lord in Waiting) this afternoon, accompanied by the King and Queen of Tonga, at the High Commissioner for Tonga's residence in London and welcomed the Tongan delegation, headed by Her Majesty upon their arrival in this country.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
November 15: The Duke of Gloucester opened The Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery Silver Jubilee Exhibition this evening.

Lieutenant-General Simon Bland was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE  
November 15: Princess Alexandra and the Hon. Angus Ogilvy were entertained at a banquet this evening by the President of the Republic of Indonesia and Madame Tien Soeharto at Claridge's.

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## Science report

# Obstetrics: Intensive care risk

By Our Medical Correspondent  
The high mortality rate among small premature babies has been reduced substantially in hospitals with specialist units for their intensive care. By no means all maternity hospitals have special care baby units, however, and one of the criticisms of the National Health Service is that it has failed to provide such units in adequate numbers.

Despite the impressive reduction in mortality achieved by intensive care techniques, one serious doubt has remained: resuscitation of extremely premature babies could lead to an increase in the numbers surviving with serious mental and physical handicaps. A report just published from the United States suggests that that may indeed be the bleak outcome, at least in some circumstances.

The Melbourne doctors attempted to answer the question in the classic way by setting up a controlled trial. All 238 infants born from the year 1970 in the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne, and weighing between 1,000 grams and 1,500 grams (2.2lb

and 3.3lb) were included in the trial. Half were given intensive care including close attention to the oxygen content and chemical makeup of the blood; the others were given simple routine care. Thirty-five of the infants given intensive care died; there were 45 deaths in the other group.

The 158 survivors were re-examined regularly and detailed psychological assessments made when they were two, six and eight years old. Of those given intensive care, 17 were assessed as having severe handicaps (IQ below 70 or serious deafness) and a further 31 had significant handicaps—IQ between 70 and 84, epilepsy, or serious visual difficulties.

In contrast, of those given routine care only 14 had severe handicaps and 23 had significant handicaps. In simple terms, the improvement in mortality figures attributable to intensive care techniques seems to have been made at the expense of a higher proportion of severely handicapped survivors.

Clearly an eight-year follow-up must be based on techniques that are now eight years out of date,

and many paediatricians will claim that their present results are better than those achieved. They are in Britain have recently reported lower rates of handicap among survivors of intensive care, but none has claimed a fully satisfactory outcome in as many as half the babies treated. Some degree of handicap is detectable in most of those whose birth weight is below 1,500 grams.

What, then, are the implications of such gloomy statistics? First, more long-term studies are needed to assess the value of new, and still unproven, techniques of intensive care. For the foreseeable future, however, the outlook for infants of extremely low birth weight was not much better, no matter how closely supervised their care.

Secondly, then, more efforts must be made to improve the health and care during pregnancy of expectant mothers and so to try to reduce the numbers of babies at risk before they are born too small. As is so often true in medicine, the answer lies in prevention.

Source: *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology* (21, 582; 1979).

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. Wharton and the Hon Frances Edmondson. The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Mr and Mrs B. R. Berkeley, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, and Susan, younger daughter of Mrs D. G. A. Leggett and the late Dr Leggett, of Wilmshurst, Dorset.

Mr N. J. F. Dalrymple Hamilton and Miss S. A. Bow. The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Captain and the Hon Mrs North Dalrymple Hamilton, of Bargany, Girvan, Argyllshire, and Sally Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. S. How, of Ladies Lake, St Andrews, Fife.

Mr S. C. Hall and Miss K. E. Stott. The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of the late Captain A. K. Hall, Royal Navy, and Mrs N. C. Hall, of Swanton Park, Hampshire, and Karen, daughter of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs J. S. Stott, of Exton, Hampshire.

Mr M. G. Shimmonds and Miss S. Prigent. The engagement is announced between Myrle George, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T. T. Shimmonds, of Hampstead, London, and Susan Margaret, only daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Prigent, of Port Gnat, Guernsey.

Mr C. Prescott and Miss J. Heald. The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Prescott, of Grinstead, East Sussex, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mervyn Heald, of Loxwood, West Sussex.

Mr A. J. Miller-Bakewell and Miss M. J. Campbell Adamson. The engagement is announced between Archie, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Miller-Bakewell, of Barnside, Bournemouth, Dorset, and Mary, youngest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs W. J. Campbell Adamson, of Carleton Castle, Brechin, Angus.

Viscount Alexander and Miss Countess. The engagement is announced between Viscount Alexander, son of the Earl of Caledon and the Hon Mrs Alexander, and Miss Wendy Countess, daughter of Mr Spiro Countess, of Broomfield, London, and Mrs John Countess, of Broomfield, London.

Mr P. J. Cheney and Miss A. B. Fandler. The marriage took place at St Mark's, Bromley, on Saturday, November 10, between P. J. Cheney, son of the late Mr and Mrs James Cheney and Miss Alice Fandler, of Bromley.

Rajah J. Ratna Gopal and Mrs J. Elow. The marriage took place in Las Vegas, Nevada, between Rajah J. Ratna Gopal, of Sri Lanka, and Mrs J. Elow, of Hill House, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Mr D. R. Munro and Mrs A. R. Ballantyne. The marriage took place on July 15, 1978, at St Christopher's, Gates Mills, Ohio, of Mr Douglas Roy Munro, son of Mr and Mrs Roy

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**John**  
chartered

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

**Foord**  
surveyors

### Stock markets

FT Ind 406.3 down 3.7  
FT, Gilt 63.31 down 1.52

### Sterling

\$214.35 up 3 cents  
Index 68.9 up 1.2

### Dollar

Index 87.2 up 0.2

### Gold

\$384 an ounce down 5.5

### 3-month money

Interbank 16 1/2 to 17  
Euro \$ 15 1/2 to 15 1/4

### IN BRIEF

## hell third quarter income leaps £720m

Net income of Royal Dutch/Shell Group leapt to £720m in third quarter against £220m in same period of last year. The figure, which has been boosted by massive holdings on oil stocks following the 20 per cent Opec price rise, is the nine months' combined total of £2,040m, last £687m previously.

Financial Editor, page 17

### lotion concession

The first sign of a crack in the trade union defence of a strike for the Shotton steelworks emerged last night as craftsmen at the plant agreed to start negotiating redundancy terms with the British Steel Corporation. The 1,100 of the 1,800 craftsman belonging to four unions the works are due to lose their jobs when the plant starts running down at end of the year.

### ending falls sharply

Summer spending fell sharply between the second and third quarters of this year. A fall of nearly 4 per cent was found by the Central Statistical Office yesterday. The rate of spending, however, was about the same as the first quarter of this year.

Table, page 22

### profits improve

Seven out of 10 sectors of the industry improved their profitability over the three months to September, with electronic component distributors taking lead with a 51 per cent rise in capital. The figures, compiled by ICC Business Intelligence, show that the highest margins were achieved by electrical (13 per cent) and pharmaceutical manufacturers (12 per cent).

### steel production up

British steel production, including British Steel and the state sector, rose by 7.4 per cent over the first 10 months of this year. Average daily output for the period ended on 417,300 tonnes.

### electric research pact

A new motor and control unit leading to cheaper electric vehicles has been developed for the Chloride Corporation by the Department of Industry and Nottingham University. A £250,000 research grant was awarded for the project, which is being driven by the design of a Chrysler/Chloride electric vehicle.

### glass investment

Investment in glass has increased in the investment programme 1980. The money is to be used on rebuilding furnaces, new moulding lines, additional warehousing, the start-up of a recycling plant and extension of the company's data processing systems.

### plan for Chester

A plan for Chester group to develop a £10m investment in a new hotel, conference suite, restaurant on a one and a half-acre site known as The 50. The proposals are being lined by the city's conservation and advisory committee. The Royal Fine Arts Commission is also involved.

Tough package from the Chancellor and a stern reminder to banks on the need for restraint

## Richardson's warning against borrowing from overseas

By Ronald Pullen  
Banking Correspondent

Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, has asked the clearance not to make use of their new freedom as a result of the lifting of exchange controls last month to make use of overseas sources of money, such as the European money market, to get round the controls on bank lending that the Supplementary Special Deposits scheme—the current—imposes.

Mr Richardson said that since exchange controls were lifted, there has been widespread concern that the controls would no longer be effective at banks borrowed abroad and so could escape being penalised for exceeding their borrowing limits. He said that the Government's request is not—and could not be—with the lifting of exchange controls—an actual directive, it has the same effect.

Mr Richardson said that the clearing banks that would be allowed to use the alternative to the current scheme were also dashed by the Chancellor's announcement that the supplementary special deposits scheme would be extended for a further three years to November 1977.

The base for the scheme continues to be the average of each bank's interest-bearing liabilities outstanding on the making-up days for the six months November 1977-December 1978.

The extension of the scheme will mean that the average of each bank's IELs on the make-up days for November 1977-December 1978 will be used.

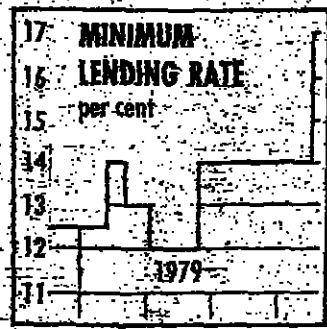
Fairley (wholly owned by the NEB), Ferranti (50 per cent) and International Computers (25 per cent) are regarded as the main candidates for the NEB disposal.

Mr Peter Ellis, a deputy managing director of International Computers, gave a qualified welcome on behalf of ICL—so long as the NEB's 25 per cent holding is not sold to any of the company's competitors.

It was to ICL's advantage to have the widest possible spread of shareholders, said Mr Ellis. "We find it acceptable, therefore, that the NEB should sell its 25 per cent shareholding on the open market, always provided that the placement is handled skilfully so that the new shareholders are widely spread."

The NEB had been a good shareholder, Mr Ellis commented. It was concerned with the interest of ICL as a total company and not with any particular part of the business. It had brought no harm in day-to-day management of the company and did not have direct representation on the ICL board.

Earlier, Ferranti, a third major candidate for NEB disposal, had urged a two-stage disposal of the board's 50 per cent Ferranti holding.



MINIMUM LENDING RATE

per cent

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

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and its trade-weighted index, based on average of currencies, rose sharply during the day. After opening a little weaker at 67.6 per cent of its end-1971 value, the index leaped to 68.3 per cent by the close.

Most dealers expect the pound to be stronger today, and there is some feeling in the early next week.

### 'Setback' for co-operation

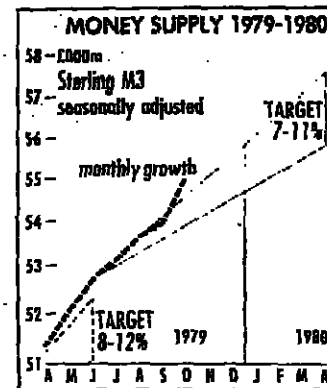
First reactions from senior TUC sources last night indicated that it will seriously back the prospects of union cooperation, and Routledge writes.

Union leaders have drawn up a plan to improve relations with Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet, an judding by top Congress House committee this is now in jeopardy. "This is now the last chance saloon for the Government," said a top official. "Unless they go into reserve, it will become increasingly difficult to reach agreement to be possible."

### Small companies hardest pressed

The greatest pressure will be on smaller companies and those relying on overdrafts to finance stocks. But it is likely to cause big companies to delay investment plans and accelerate closures of unprofitable units, Patricia Tisdall writes.

While privately, industrialists have considerable apprehension about the impact on business, their public reaction was muted and broadly supported the Government's action. Sir John Mervin, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, described it as a "necessary part of the Government's



MONEY SUPPLY 1979-1980

Seasonally adjusted

Monthly growth

Target 7-11%

Actual 8-12%

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

1991

1992

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1994

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## N Sea oil companies prepare to pay their taxes a little earlier

By Nicholas Hirst  
Energy Correspondent

Oil companies operating in the North Sea were yesterday taking calmly the announcement in the House of Commons by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, that production taxes were to be accelerated to provide the Government with an extra £700m this year and £500m next year.

They are far more worried that as a result of the 100 per cent increase in oil prices over the past 12 months and the certainty of further rises to come, an increase in the rate of North Sea taxes might be made in the April budget.

Yesterday's decision brings forward the payment date for Petroleum Revenue Tax (PRT) by two months to March 1, in place of May 1. The effect will be to bring the payment relating to the second half of 1979 into the current 1979/80 tax year instead of 1980/81.

Although the Government will have the use of the money for an extra two months only, saving little in interest charges, it creates a marked reduction in the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

An increase of £300m to government revenue in 1980/81, when there will again be two half-year payments instead of three which will now occur in the 1979/80, illustrates the speed with which petroleum revenue payments will be building up next year.

For the oil companies paying PRT at 60 per cent, raised from 35 per cent in the last Budget, the effects this year will be to remove two months' interest on money already received on production during July to December.

Only the Forties and Piper fields are paying significant amounts in this period. BP, which owns most of the oil from Forties, is expected to

make a £400m payment for the second half of this year. The two-month acceleration will lose it around £10m of cash flow, a small sum in the context of its total revenue from the field. The Piper equity shareholders, including Thompson, Getty and Occidental, will lose slightly less.

On the stock market, Shell and Ultramar retained gains on good figures despite the news. Shell finished 4p up at 32 1/2 and Ultramar 8p up at 35 1/2. BP closed 4p off at 35 1/2, but the market was generally soft.

A spokesman for BP said: "Obviously we will have to wait to see the fine print before we will be able to calculate the full effect on our business. It must have an impact on our cash flow, but not to an embarrassing extent. It will increase our capital requirement but not substantially, but it will not affect our capital expenditure programme."

An official of Shell said the company had not yet studied the implications, but it would make little difference to plans. Even a small impact on cash flow, however, is an extra problem for United Kingdom companies with large spending programmes in the North Sea, suffering shorter credit terms from OPEC countries and having to raise money to pay for the forward sale of oil by the British National Oil Corporation.

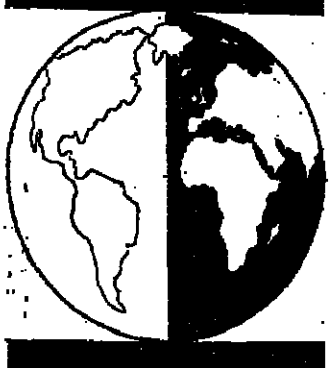
But the general attitude yesterday remained that the Government was being perfectly reasonable. Companies would have received many production contracts for eight months before having to pay their taxes, and that was still a generous amount of time.

## Fairey fights to stay intact in any NEB sale

By Kenneth Owen  
Technology Editor

The Fairey Holdings group should remain intact and shareholders should not be asked to purchase the highest bidder, Fairey said yesterday. Commenting on the Government's intention that the National Enterprise Board should acquire the group, he said that much had been achieved at Fairey since the acquisition by the board in January 1979, but there is still a lot to





## Italians rationalize fibre market

ENI, Italy's state energy group, will salvage a troubled fibre company which it owns jointly with Montedison, a leading private chemical conglomerate, it was announced in Rome by Signor Birolini, the company's director.

In return, Montedison could not withdraw from its responsibility to salvage its remaining fibre operations, Signor Birolini told a parliamentary committee.

Italy's fibre industry has suffered from excess capacity. However, recent talks among three leading producers have resulted in a rough division of the market. Montedison will concentrate on polyesters; ENI will produce acrylics and Sella Viscosa, another private company, will manufacture viscous fibres.

**Roman oil imports rise**  
West Germany imported 9.01 million metric tons of crude oil in October, up 5.17 per cent from October, 1978, according to preliminary figures released by the Federal Statistics Office. The average price for a ton of imported crude oil climbed to Dm323.40 (more than £80), in October.

**US car sales slump**  
Domestic made new car sales in the United States dropped 26 per cent in early November, from the same time in October, a decline worse than expected by some Detroit analysts. This follows a 7 per cent fall in October.

**Nissan output up**  
Motor vehicle production in October for Nissan, Japan's second largest car maker, totalled 208,469 units, up 4.9 per cent from October last year. Exports were 94,859 units. Toyota claimed that its productivity was up by 11.9 per cent from a year ago.

**French deficit up**  
France recorded a seasonally adjusted trade deficit of £2,869m (about £322m) in October, up from a deficit of £1,787m in September, according to the External Trade Ministry.

New working agreement should mean an end to disruption and delays

## Peace plan for the construction industry

By John Huxley  
A national working agreement aimed at ending a history of labour disruption, delays, and soaring costs on large industrial construction sites could be operating by the beginning of next year. It is seen as a positive step in tackling problems which cost millions of pounds each year. The Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) alone estimates that building delays on power station sites have cost £1,000m.

Next week, seven unions and two employers' organizations who have been groping towards a pact for almost a decade meet. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, will tell them that prospects for a settlement have never been better.

Yesterday, Mr Norman Singleton, independent chairman of the all-industry working party, said that the agreement remained. It was hoped to complete detailed negotiations for

an agreement to come into force on either January 1 or April 1.

The mechanical engineering construction industry, whose main clients are the power, oil, chemical, and steel industries, has a small workforce—probably fewer than 40,000 manual workers—but present investment is put at more than £2,500m. The industry's poor performance has been cited as a deterrent to large-scale investment.

Some projects have overshot cost and time schedules by spectacular margins. Dungeness B power station is about ten years late, and could end up costing around £300m more than originally estimated. Delays and cost escalation have also blighted chemical plants on Teesside.

Repeated design changes, such as those which have caused additional costs on the CEGB's £410m Dntronic pumped storage scheme, are

among the reasons given for this poor performance. The need for a national agreement covering pay and conditions on all large sites was identified as a priority for reform of the present chaos by a National Economic Development Office report in 1970.

It confirmed that disparities of pay and conditions, both between different work groups on the same site and between the sites themselves, led to frustration and ill-will, promoted wage leap-frogging, and in short was a principal cause of labour unrest.

"Acceptance of a national scheme would go far in bringing order to the industry," Mr Singleton said. "We believe the scheme is rational and sensible, and should gain approval."

Previous attempts to reach agreement have floundered not because of a lack of good will, but because of the complexity of finding a satisfactory for-

mula. Such an agreement had to satisfy the aspirations of seven unions, five of them skilled.

It had to meet the needs of two employers' organizations—the Oil and Chemical Plant Constructors Association, and the Engineering Employers Federation—with separate traditions, different methods of recruiting and organizing their workforces, and pay settlement dates six months apart.

It also had to win the approval of clients, some of whom had in the past encouraged bad practices of buying themselves out of trouble in defiance of existing agreements.

The working party has now produced a report setting out the composition of an administrative body, and procedural and disciplinary arrangements. The report has the unanimous backing of working party members.

## Ships may be exempt from competition legislation

By Geoffrey Browning  
Parliamentary Staff  
A strong indication that the Government will give sympathetic consideration to excluding the shipping industry from the provisions of the Competition Bill was given by Mr Norman Tebbit, Under-Secretary for Trade, yesterday.

Mr Tebbit said at a meeting of the Standing Committee considering the Bill that the Government had the greatest sympathy with the plight of the industry, and its case would certainly be borne in mind when it came to consider what exemptions should be made by order when the Bill had received Royal Assent.

The Competition Bill provides for the selective investigation and control of practices which restrict competition. The amendment to exempt international shipping services was moved by Mr Alistair Goodlad (Northwich, C), who argued that it would be difficult for any shipping company's legal adviser to say whether a particular practice would be considered uncompetitive.

"The companies would play safe and many activities which would have promoted British shipping and increased its enormously valuable contribution to the economy could not be taken for fear they might be subject to a reference under the Bill."

The effect on the British industry would be damaging, because other countries could react with counter-measures against British shipping.

## Massey Ferguson launches company to use closed plants

By Ronald Faux  
Massey Ferguson said yesterday it was setting up a company to attract new industry to its factory at Kilmarnock, Scotland, which is to close in February with the loss of 1,500 jobs.

The Canadian-controlled agricultural machinery group has been forced to end production in Scotland because of cumulative worldwide losses amounting to \$9.5m (about £4.8m) in the first nine months of this year.

The new company, as yet unnamed, will have as chairman Mr Harry Hebban, United Kingdom managing director of Massey Ferguson. Two other Massey Ferguson directors, including the financial controller, will also be on the board.

The Scottish plant built combined harvesters. In its attempt to attract other companies to take over all or part of the factory, the new company is prepared to offer attractive terms for the plant and machinery to any firm with rational proposals to secure jobs.

To the factory's credit is an excellent record of industrial relations, a stable workforce, a range of engineering machinery with a wide variety of possible uses, the financial help of a special development area and trade union cooperation. Massey Ferguson said that a base load of sub-contract work worth about £1.5m and providing about 130 jobs would be available.

Mr Hebban said yesterday,

"Our chances of setting an example to take over the whole plant with the 1,500 workers are possible but remote."

The new company would be willing to go into joint ventures with other companies and Massey Ferguson would be prepared to contribute towards the equity. They see the ideal solution as a three-way partnership between the new company, the Government (probably through the Scottish Development Agency) and a third party.

Through industrial consultants a "work search" had begun to identify new uses and users for the factory. Inter-actively, the search had already spotted two vehicle companies, an aerospace company, a mechanical handling design group and a company already in Scotland seeking extra capacity.

Results locally had been even more encouraging. Sixteen of 70 companies in Strathclyde, which could have uses for the factory press shop, had already been approached. Seven said ways in which the plant would be valuable.

Mr Samuel Kay, convenor of shop stewards, said that the men had rejected the idea of setting up a workers' cooperative because of the track record of such enterprises in Britain. "The top priority must be to save jobs and we are willing to co-operate with the management and Government in doing that," he said.



Sir Humphrey Browne

## Docks board profits down despite rise in turnover

By Michael Baily  
Transport Correspondent

Profits at the state-owned British Transport Docks Board are expected to be £2m to £3m down on last year's record £25.5m, chairman Sir Humphrey Browne disclosed yesterday.

He blamed the 17 per cent fall on gloom over recession, inflation and subsidising lameduck rivals such as London and Liverpool; lorry strikes and other difficulties at the beginning of the year were also to blame.

Despite this, the board continued as a "growth company, in a static industry," with a 12 per cent increase in turnover in the first half of the year to £135m, and a 5 per cent rise in tonnage.

Higher tonnage was mainly imported bulk goods rather than manufactured exports which performed "disappointingly".

Developments this year include a banana terminal at Newport, a car terminal at Southampton, a coal terminal at Garston and widening of the dock entrance at Liverpool.

Sir Humphrey said that BTDB's quarter share of the industry would probably grow, especially in container and car traffic, but that it would always be a minority.

In contrast to London, where redundancy is financed by the taxpayer, the board's "problem port" of Hull had made a £2.5m profit after last year's £1m loss.

Local authority planning procedures can be a nightmare of complexity for small businesses, Mr David Nickson, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's Scottish office, said yesterday. Speaking at a conference on "Conservation for Industrial Recovery", he called for greater flexibility by local planners towards the needs of industry.

A company may have to deal at the same time with both regional and district councils, national government bodies, and a maze of complex and sometimes incomprehensible building regulations.

Many of these seem to the manager of a business quite irrelevant to the prime purpose of achieving a return on an investment, improving productivity, securing and creating employment and above all, simply getting on with the job.

German, French, American and Australian industrialists were astonished that it took British businessmen so long to move from the planning stage to commissioning, said Mr Nickson. We need more urgency and less bureaucracy in our planning processes.

**Iran asks Japan to postpone oil payments**  
Iran has asked Japanese trading and oil companies to postpone their oil payments, a government official said yesterday. The move follows Iran's announcement on Wednesday that it would pull out of reserves from United States banks and President Jimmy Carter's declaration that the United States would freeze Iranian assets.

Iran's request for postponement of payments until today was made apparently out of fear that oil payments from Japan, made normally through United States banks, may also be frozen, according to Japanese officials.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Employment protection law and its affect on small companies

From Mr J. W. Seabright

Sir, In recent months there has been a lot of discussion about employment protection legislation and its possible discouraging effect on employment, especially in small companies. Frequently I have seen it stated that the present legislation is no disincentive because "the majority of industrial tribunals cases are won by the employee". My company has just won a case before an industrial tribunal and your readers may be interested to know both the facts and the implications.

We recently opened a new store in the Isle of Wight and interviewed many applicants for, among other jobs, the post of stock controller. We had six interviewers who interviewed 51 people at the job centre, 37 women and four men.

An applicant alleged subsequently that one of our interviewers whispered to him that the job he was applying for was "for women only". He complained to the Equal Opportunities Commission who, I understand, advised him to submit a

claim under the Sex Discrimination Act.

The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service appointed a conciliation officer and settlement figures were mentioned from £20 to £200—which were rejected by us. The claimant then referred the matter again to the Equal Opportunities Commission who, I understand, advised him to proceed with the claim.

So far, you may feel the sequence of events was understandable. It might have been, had there been any truth in the claim. But the facts were that not only was the job not restricted to women but one of the only four men who applied was appointed and he had five years' relevant experience. How could the EOC possibly believe that the unsuccessful applicant had a claim in the face of those facts?

We determined we would fight the case. The tribunal was held today at Southampton, 70 miles from our head office, and lasted for three hours. We instructed a solicitor, our personnel manager also attended and

we had to provide four of six interviewers to be available as witnesses—we were fortunately able to exclude two who did not tally with the description given by the applicant's interviewers.

The cost to the company, legal and travelling expenses, and wasted management time was considerable. They are those who would say "we didn't pay the £200, so have done with it?"

We believe that as a major retailer we cannot give in to demands of this sort and that we must do so, there will be even more frequent vexatious claims than we experience at the moment. But when the local press, I wonder how many small employers, will decide that the recruitment of more staff is a "hazard" can well do without.

Yours etc,  
J. W. SEABRIGHT  
Chairman,  
MPT Furniture  
North End Rd  
Wembly,  
Middlesex, HA  
November 14.

## Why Post Office telephone vans were painted yellow

From Mr J. H. Sles

Sir, Mr Sellars (November 13) has got it wrong about the Post Office's colours. The decision to change the colour of the telecommunications vehicles from green (not red) to yellow had little to do with the change in the then General Post Office's status, but it had a lot to do with safety.

Yellow vehicles are much easier to spot on the road than green ones or those of any other colour except, in my view, white. It was for the same reason that British Rail decided to paint the front of its trains yellow. As telephone kiosks are static why should they not with the present exceptions, say red?

Yours sincerely,  
J. H. SLES,  
2 Kennard Road,  
New Milton,  
Hants, BH23 5JR,  
November 13.

From Mr Jack Griffiths

Sir, Mr Sellars' suggestion (November 13) that the colour of telephone boxes should be changed to yellow is, in my view, a suggestion that should be a reason. Yours sincerely,  
J. A. PRETLOVE,  
10 Brunswick Hill,  
Reading,  
November 13.

years after independence. No doubt the world would like to replace these reminders of the past but having decided that the existing boxes are satisfactory, have many years of useful life left, and would cost money to replace, they leave well alone.

The lesson for us here, in these days of financial stringency, is clear. Yours faithfully,  
JACK GRIFFITHS,  
Lewes Road,  
Farringham,  
West Sussex,  
November 14.

From Mr A. J. Pretlove

Sir, Your letter to Mr Sellars (November 13) concerning the desirability of yellow telephone boxes prompts me to write to you (and him). If he cares to travel the few miles from Reading to Wokingham, he will find that the Railway Station has two yellow and operational telephone boxes on the main road-bound platform. This is, however, as mysterious as the "mystery" of the Post Office's blue ones. I suppose that must be a reason. Yours sincerely,  
J. A. PRETLOVE,  
10 Brunswick Hill,  
Reading,  
November 13.

## A case of backdated tax charges

From Mr Kurt

Sir, The press frequently claim that it is a sound underpinning to what is a sound business. A Budget speech, speech at a businessmen's meeting, or a speech by the Chancellor, "he may cut" and capital.

Such an aim only induce wealth might wish to do assets, to post until these suggestions are introduced. This is a service the public could be easily a simple announcement possible benefits tax changes will be active to a certain anyone expects a the Chancellor's such an announcement.

Yours faithfully,  
KURT KLAPPHOL,  
Reader in Economic Department of Econ The London School Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, November 13.

## Making VAT a discriminating

From Mr J. R. Brannan

Sir, I agree with Mr J. M. Letwin (November 13) in his remarks about VAT, but I could not support his idea of a tax on energy and raw materials.

VAT has little to do with the classic concept of energy, economy, convenience and, mainly, though they do spell EEC, and we must not forget that a percentage of VAT goes to the Community, as its "own" revenue. So, if we got rid of VAT we would be reducing the amount we paid to Brussels very considerably. That would be something.

However, if we then had an EEC tax on energy we would be making the same error because we are the biggest source of energy in the Community.

In any case it would be quite unnecessary, in the number of transactions which are the sources of wealth. They are used to produce further wealth. We do not want to hinder the production of wealth. What we want to tax is the consumption of personal and immaterial wealth.

That means that we must have a discriminating tax. Supporters of VAT actually claim that its lack of discrimination is a virtue, but we should not tax things like the repair and maintenance of property, nor should we tax things like farm fertilizers when the tax is invariably reclaimed in the end.

The first thing to do with VAT is to reduce drastically the number of firms who are registered for the tax. Retailers should normally not be registered.

Next we should make a very big reduction in the number of transactions which are subject to tax. This is achieved by allowing be exempt from VAT all registered firms as in of the purchase tax, in and the vast quantity of for repayment.

We should also end a cap of zero-rated "exempt" goods. Having simplified and fixed the tax, the tax staff be able to give more guidance to the firms caused the burden.

Let us not jump out a frying pan into the fire would do better to climb of the fire and back into frying pan.

Yours sincerely,  
J. R. BRANNAN,  
White Cottage,  
127 Supters Road,  
Newport,  
Isle of Wight,  
November 13.

ABTA registered its rule with the Office of Fair Trading last year and the OFT referred the issue to the court in December, 1978. It has taken almost a year for the Treasury solicitor, who acts on behalf of the OFT, to notify all ABTA members and the association has until the end of this year to prepare and submit a statement of case.

The growing practice of travel companies selling package holidays directly through their own outlets and bypassing ABTA travel agents is seen by some as evidence that the travel industry is in the throes of change and that ABTA may be forced to adapt.

Certainly there is a small body of opinion within the industry that would prefer ABTA to bow to the inevitable and spend funds it will use on defending itself—conservatively estimated at £100,000—helping to assure that the association survives.

A large number of other so-called service agreements have been registered with the OFT since the Act came into force and officials are in discussion with several of them in the hope that amendments can be agreed instead of referring the case to court.

Among the bodies whose agreements are being reviewed are the National Association of Bookmakers, the Society of West End Theatres, the British Poster Advertising Association and the Association of Independent Radio Contractors.

Association angry at court challenges to its rules

## Government keeps out of ABTA restrictive practices hearings

By Edward Townsend

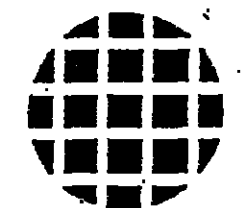
The Government has made clear to the British travel industry that it will not interfere in the reference of the rules of the Association of British Travel Agents, which govern the activities of the majority of United Kingdom retail agents and tour operators, to the Restrictive Practices Court.

According to senior ABTA representatives, the Government's view expressed during informal discussions, is that the case should take its course and that ministers want to be seen to be impartial.

ABTA will join the Stock Exchange and the First Service organizations, as opposed to traders or manufacturers, to face scrutiny under the terms of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1976. This was designed to ensure that competition policy by extending legislation to services as well as goods.

The ABTA rules will be the first of the two cases to come to court, although the hearing is not expected to take place until the spring of 1981.

Mr John North, Secretary of State for Trade, announced in the Commons three weeks ago that the Stock Exchange could not be exempted from the legislation and ABTA leaders feel that there is little point in further attempts at convincing the Government that theirs is a special case.



**Minet**  
Minet Holdings Ltd  
Registered England 537877

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS IMPORTANT TO SHAREHOLDERS AND REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. IF YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT WHAT ACTION TO TAKE YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR STOCKBROKER, BANK MANAGER, SOLICITOR, ACCOUNTANT OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVISER IMMEDIATELY.

## MINET HOLDINGS LIMITED ("Minet") AND CORROON & BLACK CORPORATION ("Corroon")

The following joint announcement by Minet and Corroon, a New York-based insurance broking firm, was made on 14th November 1979. A circular has been posted to all Shareholders of Minet setting out the text of the announcement.

"The Board of Corroon announces that Corroon proposes to increase its interest in Minet to 20 per cent of Minet's issued share capital. Corroon presently own approximately 4.8 per cent of such share capital. Corroon intends to increase its interest by purchases in the market over a reasonable period of time commencing on Monday, 19th November.

The approval of the Committee of Lloyd's has been sought and obtained to the proposed investment by Corroon and the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers has been consulted.

The Board of Corroon has indicated that it is its belief that this investment in Minet will greatly solidify its increasingly productive relationship with Minet and that the investment is an indication of Corroon's strong confidence in the Minet management team.

The Board of Minet welcomes this interest by Corroon and proposes to invite two representatives of Corroon to join the Board of Minet as non-executive directors.

Corroon has assured the Board of Minet that it will abide by the regulations of the Committee of Lloyd's regarding foreign control and that it will not use its holding to elect more than two non-executive directors to the Board of Minet nor increase its percentage shareholding without the prior approval of Minet's Board.

The Boards of Corroon and Minet are both confident that they can identify many areas of opportunity where together they can better serve their respective clients and at the same time benefit their respective shareholders. They plan to continue their discussions on the development of a profit-sharing arrangement as jointly announced earlier this year, and it is the view of both Boards that this investment will be complementary to the proposed profit-sharing arrangement."

The Board of Minet has requested The Stock Exchange to suspend the listing in their company's shares until Monday, 19th November 1979 in order that shareholders may have time to consult their professional advisers.

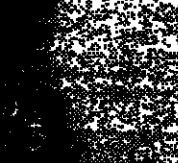


هكنا ان الفيل



# Punch-drunk in the City

in retailing, where sales gained 164 per



But the main push should come from the industrial side. Again there are inbuilt offensive qualities in pharmaceuticals and longer-term there should be the entry of our new Froben drugs which has achieved major success in Britain, France and Japan, to the United States and other major international markets.

## The state's asset

BSC has retained high cover for many years tying heavy investment. Now that programme is more or less complete, shareholders may expect more—perhaps alongside an offer—for sale of the Government stake.

Even after spending on the

## Where is Opec's money going?

DEPLOYMENT OF ASSETS BY TYPE					
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
			(in \$500m)		
Banks and Euromarkets	29.7	10.1	13.1	15.0	3.9
Gilt and govt securities	9.1	2.0	0.6	3.5	-2.6
Direct investment, aid and multinational institutions		14.7	19.6	19.9	11.8
Source: <i>Financial Times</i> , 1975-79, Quarterly Bulletin, 1975-79.					

## Time for

## For the talking

and 4 per cent, if one assumes a nominal return on the whole Opec portfolio of 7 to 8 per cent.

**g to stop**

Michael Prest

## Business Diary: GKN's Borlenghi • Sed semper quango?

Ronay was presiding over a luncheon in London to launch his 1980 Lucas hotel and restaurant guide. The laconic Hungarian observed: "I think this lunch is being sponsored by Jeeves, the cleaners".

their report, though she has yet to comment, and that they have helped her prove her consumerist independence of her family's business interests.

**Ross Davies**

Britain has a reasonable technical base in microelectronics on which to build and can point to isolated examples of the successful use of microprocessors. But, in general, in the penetration of microprocessors into products, Britain is clearly behind

Most concern involves the period of transition to the microelectronics era, that is the loss of existing jobs. Microelec-

microelectronics in schools, not just preaching microprocessors to companies, but explaining, educating, reeducating and helping people throughout their lives to understand and adapt to the change that is inevitable.

## Ross Davies



10



## FINANCIAL NEWS

Alor rubs  
s hands  
t onset  
f winter

Alison Mitchell, ad weather and an early t to winter is good news cooler and heater manu- ver Valor.

ist half profits to Septem- 28, 1979, are up by over a rter, and chairman Mr hael Montague is standing his forecast of record its for the year. Despite the incising strike, which effec- Valor will beat a previous m. "Half an inch of snow re Christmas is worth three after," he says.

the first six months of year profits of £12,000 to £10,000 on turnover up from 5m to £23.8m thereby in- using margins slightly to 3.8 cent.

according to the chairman individually of Valor liances enables the group to tain a high market share, or is the market leader. In firms with around 25 per t of the market and is the manufacturer in Britain of log fires, which are cur- ly being put on sale through- the country. This side of business should also con- ute to profits in the final rter.

though Mr Montague would quantify the costs of the incising strike, which effec- te out of the seven United gom factories including the plant in Birmingham, in depress second half ings.

ports are being maintained he 10 per cent level despite hange rate.

or shareholders there is a e again dividend of 1.1p but capital increased by a one- one scrip.

he shares gained a penny 6.2p yesterday, immedi- ly the improved figures re they yield a historic 5.8 cent.

Sandeman quotation  
is suspended

Port and sherry importers, George Sandeman, were clocked in mystery yesterday following a lunchtime suspension of the shares at 84p.

The company has long been subject to bid speculation, but last night group chairman Mr Timothy Sandeman was making no comment at all on the pres- per of a take-over.

Mr Derek Palmer, chairman and chief executive of Beas, which has a trading arrange- ment with Sandeman, dem- that his group was about to launch a bid.

The shares have risen almost

20p since Monday, but analysts are already doing their sums and expect a potential bidder to pay around 130p a share. This values the group at £14.7m.

Although Sandeman has an up-and-down profit record, some expect the suitor to be one of the major brewing groups, determined to guaran- tee its supplies of sherry and port from Spain.

In the year to December 31, 1978, Sandeman made a pre- tax profit of £1.8m, but in 1976 this figure was as low as £408,000.

## Hinton margins slip

By Our Financial Staff

Amos Hinton, the Cleveland supermarket group, has paid nearly to hold on to its share of the market in the wake of the High Street price war.

Pre-tax profits in the 28 weeks to September 15 have been slashed by more than half from £352,000 to £403,000. Over the same period sales rose by more than 14 per cent to £38.4m.

The interim setback follows a fall of more than a fifth to pre-tax profits of £1.35m in the group's last full year.

The board said yesterday that the results had been hard hit by severe weather at the beginning of the interim period.

and also by the aftermath of the lorry drivers' strike.

Hinton has attempted to counter the supermarket price war and hold on to its 16.4 per cent of the Type-Tees market by cutting margins sharply and spending heavily on distribu- tion systems.

The group's confidence that the measures will soon start to pay off are expressed in a 12.1 per cent interim dividend hike to make a gross payment of 2.5p. Mr P. N. Guy, the group's financial director said yesterday that second-half re- sults are "so far better than those of last year but much now depends on the crucial Christmas period."

## New unit trust launched

By Margaret Stone

A new fund devoted to special situations has been launched by Tower Unit Trust Management.

The £30m group put together twelve months ago by the team, which successfully steered the old Slater Walker unit trust group through the crisis and its transformation into the Britannia unit trust group.

Tower Special Situations will be moving into the classic investment areas for this kind of fund - takeover targets, status change situations, recovery shares and new issues.

However, in the prevailing market conditions chairman Mr Brian Banks believes that the biggest gains will come from gilt-edged securities.

Ultramar doubles  
in third quarter

By Our Financial Staff

Third-quarter profits at Ultramar were good enough to push the shares 8p higher to 358p in an otherwise dull oil market. More-than-doubled pre-tax profits of £19.1m in the third quarter took the total for the nine months up from £26.7m to £42.9m.

This was also struck after a sharply higher amortisation and depreciation charge, up from 9.6m to £22.6m for the nine months, chiefly arising from the company's decision to write off £11.8m of the costs of its abandoned Iranian exploration venture. This is three-quarters of the total and the final £4m will be taken in the fourth quarter.

For the rest, the improve- ment has been across the board of its operations. Eastern Canada in particular im- proved markedly, having made losses last year, thanks to the firming of prices for petroleum products. Ultramar is still wor- ried by the shortage of crude

oil supplies from Western Canada where it argues that supplies are inequitably shared amongst refiners, although their position has now started to im- prove. Elsewhere the Califor- nian marketing operation has benefited from higher product prices and in the United King- dom the difficult first half has given way to a strong third quarter partly helped by the availability of crude supplies from the Thistle field.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian LNG operations continue to thrive where the plans to double production over the next two and a half years are moving ahead. The interest in the natural gas project in East Kali- mantan has been reduced from 35 to 26 per cent under the terms of the original contract but this will not have a material effect on group profits. Ultra- mar is predicting an "exception- al" fourth quarter, which should mean full year profits getting on for treble 1978's after-tax £15m.

Kleinwort  
Benson's  
first half  
better

Our report on the interim statement from Hill Samuel yesterday mistakenly appeared under the headline "Kleinwort Benson lagging behind". Klein- wort Benson was in fact showing an improvement at the interim stage when it reported in September.

## Chrysler stock plan

Washington. — The House Banking Committee has approved an amendment to the Chrysler Corporation Loan Guarantee Bill which would require the car-maker to in- crease an employee stock ownership plan. Under the plan Chrysler would be required to issue 10 million shares of stock and employees would have to agree to buy two thirds of it over four years. — Reuter.

## Big pulp mill costs hit ITT

At the same time as ITT, the giant United States multi- national, revealed its first loss for many years, Mr Harold Geneen, its president for two decades, announced his suc- cession by Mr Raul V. Araskog.

ITT's third-quarter loss was \$137m (£68.5m), caused by \$320m spent on closing a pulp mill in Canada. But excluding this and foreign currency trans- action effects, earnings per share in fact rose by 19 per cent over the same period of 1978 and by 10 per cent for the nine months.

Mr Geneen is the father of ITT, a man who acquired some notoriety for his tough manage- ment style. The company has been at the centre of major

bribery scandals.

Sales and revenue for the company in the nine months to date were \$3.47bn, against \$3.05bn for the equivalent period of last year. Foreign cur- rency translation lost the group 33 cents a share in the third quarter.

Sim Darby approval

Kuala Lumpur, Nov 15.— Sim Darby Holdings, share- holders have overwhelmingly approved the scheme of arrangement for the transfer

of the company's domicile to Malaysia from the United King- dom and the name change to Sime Darby BHD. The scheme involves the exchange of 10p Sime Darby Holdings shares for 50 cents (Malaysian) Sime Darby BHD shares on a one-for-one basis. — Reuter.

## Rockwell up 48 pc

Pittsburgh, Pa. — Rockwell International's net income for 1979 totalled \$261.1m (£124m), or \$7.33 per share, an increase of 48 per cent over 1978. Income from continuing operations for 1979 also totalled \$261.1m (£7.33), an increase of 23 per cent. Sales from continuing operations were £6,200m, up 16 per cent.

## Business appointments

## Changes at Pearl

Mr E. T. Blythe and Mr T. W. Lewis are to become deputy chairmen of Pearl Assurance following the retirement of Mr T. J. Leach and Mr A. C. Edwards. Mr S. C. McIntyre has also announced that he will retire as president of the company on February 29, 1980.

Mr H. M. Grace will become group managing director of Pegler-Hattersley from January 1, 1980, in succession to Mr A. L. Loudon, who reaches retirement age. Mr Loudon stays on the board as non-executive vice-chairman. Mr K. Blair becomes director of United Kingdom operations. Mr R. N. Inman becomes finance director in succession to Mr Grace. Dr Alan Rudge is to be chief executive and managing director of ERA Technology from Decem- ber 1, 1979. Mr R. Sedgwick has been appointed deputy managing director.

Mr D. N. Hookway has suc- ceeded Mr S. F. Moore as chair-

man of the British Valve Manu- facturers' Association. Mr G. Hanson is now vice-chairman.

Mr Ian McIntosh has been made finance director and member of the executive committee of C. T. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings.

Sir Max Bemrose will retire for health reasons as a non-executive director of the Bemrose Corpora- tion with effect from November 30, 1979.

Mr Ian Wilson has been made chairman of Northern Goldsmiths replacing Mr Michael Royds who will become chief executive and chairman of the jewelry division.

Mr Derek Alun-Jones, chief executive of Ferrand, is now a non-executive director of the group.

Mr Philip Chappell, a direc- tor of Morgan Grenfell, has succeeded Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, as chairman of the City Arts Trust.

Mr A. P. Perry-Lewis has joined the board of Sarabex.

## MONEY SUPPLY

The following are the figures released for the monthly amount of money stock seasonally adjusted at the mid-month dates.

	£100m	£100m	Percentage change over three months at annual rate
1979			
May	26.8	52.1	8.1
June	26.6	52.7	9.7
July	27.2	53.1	14.3
Aug	27.2	53.6	11.1
Sept	27.3	53.9	11.5
Oct	28.2	55.0	15.7

## MONTHLY CHANGE IN STERLING M3 AND DOMESTIC CREDIT EXPANSION

	Domestic credit expansion	External credit expansion	Domestic credit expansion	External credit expansion
May	-897	-132	-136	-729
June	-865	-132	-136	-729
July	-439	-13	-1	-427
Aug	-1,062	-339	-144	-354
Sept	-1,062	-312	-144	-354
Oct	-1,566	-400	-166	-1,080

## CUMULATIVE TOTAL FOR 1978-79

	Domestic credit expansion	External credit expansion	Domestic credit expansion	External credit expansion
May	+3,720	14.7	5,860	11,720

## CONSUMER SPENDING

The following are the second estimated figures for consumer expenditure seasonally adjusted at constant 1975 prices, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday.

	£m	Percentage change on previous quarter at annual rate
1978		
Q1	16,432	+15.8
Q2	16,522	+2.2
Q3	16,879	+8.9
Q4	16,895	+0.3
1979		
Q1	17,086	+4.8
Q2	17,785	+17.1
Q3	17,087	-14.8

## Alitalia loss

Rome. — After two years of hard-won profits, Italy's flag airline, Alitalia, will suffer a loss in 1979 because of strikes and the temporary grounding of its DC10 aircraft last May. — AP—Dow Jones.

## Ultramar Company Limited

## An outstanding performance.

## Review of Group financial results and operations

We reported at mid-year that our financial results for the first half of 1979 were excellent and a record for the Group. We also said that we expected the Group to continue to show good financial results in the second half of 1979.

The operating profit for the first nine months of 1979 before taxation amounted to £42,869,000, compared with £26,703,000 for the same period of 1978. The above operating profit is arrived at after charging £22,623,000 amortisation, depreciation, depletion and amounts written off. This amount includes £11,750,000, being 75 per cent of the remaining unamortised exploration costs in Iran, where we have ceased operations, which would otherwise be written off over a long period of time on the basis of percentage of oil and gas produced each year from our total reserves. The remaining 25 per cent of the unamortised costs in Iran will be written off in the fourth quarter.

After deducting current and deferred taxation, the profit for the nine month period came to £25,310,000 compared to £8,725,000 for the same period of 1978. Non-cash foreign exchange gains for the first nine months of 1979 totalled £1,313,000 and after deducting the dividend on the Preferred Shares and Advance Corporation Tax written off, the net earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders were £25,625,000. Cash flow from operations for the first three quarters of 1979 amounted to £49,619,000.

All of the above figures are records for the Ultramar Group. They are due to excellent operating results by all of our major divisions. The Indonesian oil and gas producing operations are showing considerably better results than projected at the beginning of the year largely because of increased prices and more LNG shipments. Producing operations in the North Sea and Western Canada benefited from higher crude oil prices. The refining and marketing company in California and the marketing operation in the U.K. showed excellent third quarter profits.

In Eastern Canada, in spite of a reduction in sales volume, we were able to achieve better results due to a firming of market

prices for petroleum products and thereby improve the return on our large refining and marketing investment. The Canadian Compensation Programme discourages the importation of foreign crude oil, and the sharing of Western Canadian crude oil currently allocated to refiners in Eastern Canada is inequitable. These factors have penalised our operations. We are using our limited crude oil supply to full advantage while supporting markets which provide the best long-term results. This policy includes buying limited volumes of refined products — mostly home heating oil.

The 1978 and 1979 capital expenditures will aggregate about £90 million and the two-year total for 1980 and 1981 will climb to over £100 million. Most of our capital expenditures are for exploration and development in Indonesia, the North Sea, Western Canada and Egypt. We are also seeking exploration rights in Australia. Drilling for oil and gas is hazardous, despite all the advanced science and technology, but we have done relatively well in the past few years and believe we will continue to do so.

As has been previously stated to shareholders, under the terms of our original contract, our 35 per cent interest in the oil and natural gas venture in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, is subject to a one-time reduction to 26.25 per cent interest at such time as we recover all of our investment in that project, at which time the existing 2 per cent overriding royalty obligation will also expire, but it is not expected to have a material effect on Group profits. That situation will occur during November 1979.

Present indications are that profits for the last quarter of the year should be exceptionally good. An interim dividend of 5p per ordinary share was paid on 9th November, 1979.

Campbell Nelson  
15th November 1979 Chairman

## Group Results for the Nine Months to 30th September 1979

	First nine months 1979	First nine months 1978 (Note 5)	Year 1978 (Note 5)
<b>Consolidated Profit and Loss Account</b>			
Sales	£283,345	£414,294	£595,133
Profit on trading	65,492	36,305	50,237
Amortisation, depreciation, depletion and amounts written off	22,623	9,602	12,451
Operating profit before taxation	42,869	26,703	37,786
Taxation on operating profit:			
Current	9,078	10,689	13,226
Deferred	8,481	7,289	9,513
Operating profit after taxation	17,559	17,978	22,739
Operating profit after taxation	25,310	8,725	15,047
Foreign exchange fluctuations — Profit/(Loss)	1,313	(8,103)	(5,469)
Profit after taxation and foreign exchange fluctuations	26,623	2,622	9,578
Deduct: Convertible Redeemable Preferred Shares Dividend	675	786	1,050
Advance Corporation Tax written off	323	387	808
Earnings attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	998	1,173	1,856
Cash flow from operations	£25,625	£1,449	£7,720
Cost of 5p per share interim dividend including Advance Corporation Tax written off 1996,000	£3,319	£ —	£ —
Earnings per Ordinary Share (before foreign exchange fluctuations)	52.3p	17.0p	29.6p
Basic	47.7p	16.7p	28.7p

	First nine months 1979	First nine months 1978	Notes
<b>Consolidated Statement of Source and Application of Funds</b>			
Source of funds	£000	£000	
From operations:			
Operating profit after taxation	£25,310	£8,725	1 Group operating profits are largely in U.S. and Canadian dollars.
Amortisation, depreciation, depletion and amounts written off	22,623	9,602	2 The gain on foreign exchange fluctuations of £1,313,000 during the nine months to 30th September 1979 relates almost entirely to long term loans of individual companies repayable over the years to 1983.
Deferred taxation on trading profits	8,481	7,289	
Indonesian debt service equalisation (Note 4)	(6,898)	(5,238)	
Loss on sale of fixed assets	103	1,551	3 Translation and conversion exchange rates used by the Group are:
Cash flow from operations	49,619	20,929	
From other sources:			
Shares issued during the period	981	81	September 1979 September 1978 December 1978
Long term loans raised	3,346	21,465	£1 equals U.S.\$ 2.20 1.98 2.04
Proceeds on disposal of fixed assets	1,985	1,652	£1 equals Can.\$ 2.56 2.34 2.42
Exchange adjustments due to currency realignments	123	(621)	U.S.\$1 equals Can.\$ 1.16 1.18 1.19
	£56,064	£43,506	U.S.\$1 equals Sw.Fr. 1.55 1.54 1.63
Application of funds			
Acquisition of subsidiary companies	3,637	—	4 The Group's entitlement to income from Indonesian LNG sales is included in the profit and loss account after deducting transportation, liquefaction costs, and debt service on the loans raised by Pertamina to finance the whole of the construction cost of the Badak LNG Plant, which is operated on a break-even basis. In order to match income with these deductions, the Group's entitlement is adjusted to reflect an equal annual charge for debt service, rather than the uneven repayment schedule established for the loans, all of which are repayable within a 12 year period starting in 1977. Effectively, therefore, the cost of the plant will be fully amortised by the end of 1989.
Additions to fixed assets	26,731	16,573	5 The Statement of Standard Accounting Practice 15 (SSAP 15) relating to accounting for deferred taxation came into effect for accounting periods commencing on or after 1st January 1979 and has been adopted in the preparation of the results for the first nine months of 1978 and the year 1978 have been related on the new basis by the elimination of deferred tax credits of £2,616,000 and £1,184,000 respectively. Under the previous standard (SSAP 11) there would have been an additional deferred tax charge of £3,305,000 in the first nine months of 1979.
Capital expenditures	30,368	16,573	
Portion of long term debt now due in one year	7,466	2,484	
Convertible Redeemable Preferred Shares dividend including Advance Corporation Tax £284,000 (1978 £387,000)	£969	£1,173	
1979 Interim Ordinary Shares Dividend (payable 9th November, 1979) including Advance Corporation Tax £996,000	3,319	—	
Miscellaneous items	4,288	1,173	
Increase in working capital	121	(280)	
	£56,064	£43,506	
Working capital at 30th September 1979	£37,070	£32,866	
Long-term loans at 30th September 1979	£76,255	£74,411	

	First nine months 1979	First nine months 1978	Note
<b>Operating Results</b>			
Sales of oil (barrels per day)	272,990	202,100	Sales of oil for the first nine months of 1979 include Canadian Fuel Marketers Ltd. product sales of 79,300 barrels per day.
Oil refined (barrels per day)	86,700	97,800	
Oil produced (barrels per day)	10,000	9,800	
Gas produced (thousands of cubic feet per day)	175,700	202,800	
Gross wells drilled	38	30	
Oil and gas wells completed (in which the Group has varying interests)	29	16	



**Ultramar**

2 Broad Street Place, London EC2M 7EP



**M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited**  
62-65 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8HP Tel: 01 620 6651  
**The Over-the-Counter Market**

1978 High	Low	Company	Price	Cntr	Gross Dist (%)	Yld	P.E.
99	39	Airsprung Group	81	-	6.7	8.3	94.8
50	35	Armistead & Rhodes	43	+	3.8	8.8	72.8
222	143	Bardon Hill	221	-	13.8	6.2	95.5
101	50	Deborah Ord	93	-	5.0	5.4	102.1
93	93	Deborah New Ord	93	-	-	-	-
353	140	Fully Paid Knights	353	-	17.5	5.0	-
147	100	Fredrick Parker	102	-	12.8	12.5	79.9
158	111	George Blair	111	-	16.5	14.9	-
61	45	Jackson Group	58d	-	5.2	9.0	93.4
153	97	James Burrough	120	-	7.2	6.0	105.9
342	250	Robert Jenkins	250	-	31.3	12.5	49.0
232	130	Turnday Limited	232	-	14.3	6.2	96.1
24	14	Tynlock Ord	23	-	0.8	3.7	84.4
82	48	Tynlock & ULS	51	-	12.0	10.0	82.8
55	23	Unilever Holdings	81	-	2.4	5.7	115.7
84	42	Walker Anderson	42	-	4.4	5.3	11.7
190	136	W. S. Yeates	186	-	11.5	6.2	7.2
189	187	W. S. Yeates New	189	-	-	-	-

\*Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15

## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank .....	14%
Barclays Bank ....	14%
BCCI Bank .....	15%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co .....	*14%
Lloyds Bank .....	14%
London Mercantile	14%
Midland Bank ....	14%
Nat Westminster .	15%
Rossminster .....	15%
TSB .....	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

\* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £25,000 12½%, over £25,000, 13½%.

THE TIMES

83% of  
Times readers have  
bank accounts.

**Over 75% of  
Times readers have  
current accounts and  
over 32% have  
deposit or savings  
accounts.**

# Nine months results from Royal Insurance

### Estimated Results

The estimated Group results for the nine months ended 30th September 1979 with comparative figures for the corresponding period in 1978 and for the full year 1978 are given below.

	9 mths to 30/9/79	9 mths to 30/9/78	Year 1978
	£m	£m	£m
General Insurance			
Premiums written	928.3	941.4	1220.1
Underwriting Result	-11.3	19.2	25.4
Long Term Insurance Profit	3.3	3.3	4.4
Investment Income	94.1	88.6	120.7
Share of Associated Companies' profit	5.0	1.3	2.5
Total profit before taxation	91.1	112.4	153.0
Taxation	39.1	45.5	64.5
Minority Interests	0.6	0.2	0.3
Net profit attributable to the Company	51.4	66.7	88.2
(pence per unit)	(34.2p)	(44.4p)	(58.7p)

### Exchange Rates

In the above figures foreign currency has been converted according to our usual practice at approximately the average rates of exchange ruling during the period. The principal rates were :—

	9 mths to 30/9/79	9 mths to 30/9/78	Year 1978
USA .....	\$2.11	\$1.90	\$1.92
Canada .....	\$2.47	\$2.14	\$2.19
Australia .....	\$1.88	\$1.66	\$1.68
Netherlands .....	F14.27	F14.18	F14.15

Premiums written in 1979 have been depressed in comparison with the period for 1978 mainly due to movements in exchange rates and to a lesser extent by accounting changes. If allowance is made for these factors, the underlying growth in premium income was 7% as against an apparent decrease. The effect of changes in exchange rates on the comparison of the nine months results was to depress the profit before taxation by £4.8m; the investment income was adversely affected by £7.5m, whereas the underwriting result benefited by £2.7m.

## Underwriting Results

	9 mths to 30/9/79	9 mths to 30/9/78	Year 1978
	£m	£m	£m
USA .....	-13.7	2.5	10.5
UK and Irish Republic .....	6.4	7.7	11.9
Canada .....	-5.2	8.6	2.4
Australia .....	-3.4	-0.4	-0.3
Europe (Ex UK and Irish Republic) .....	3.3	-2.0	0.1
Other Overseas .....	2.3	2.8	0.8
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>-11.3</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>25.4</b>

The operating ratios for the USA on the UK basis are:—

	9 months to 30/9/79	9 months to 30/9/78	Year 1978
Claims as % of earned premiums .....	71.5	68.0	65.9
Expenses as % of written premiums .....	31.3	30.0	30.9
Operating ratio .....	102.8	98.0	96.8

### Underwriting Result

Despite the severe impact of weather damage in the USA and Caribbean, the underwriting loss for the first nine months at £11.3m was only £0.2m higher than at the half year stage.

In the USA the third quarter underwriting loss of \$5.9m was almost totally accounted for by claims arising from Hurricanes David and Frederic. For the year to date automobile insurance still produced the largest part of the loss. Extreme weather damage caused underwriting losses in all property lines other than commercial multi-peril. Workers compensation business remained unprofitable; better results were achieved in general liability.

In the United Kingdom the recovery apparent in the second quarter continued. For the first nine months there was a loss in personal lines at a higher level than last year largely due to the severe winter weather experienced in the first quarter. Commercial business continued to show a satisfactory profit.

In Canada the general increase in claims frequency, particularly in personal lines, continued in the third quarter. At the nine months stage losses have been incurred in all major lines other than commercial property.

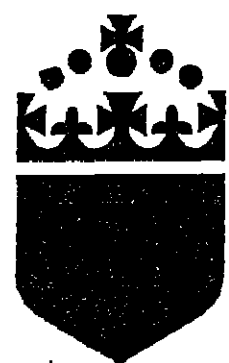
In Australia there was a further deterioration in underwriting experience in the third quarter in most major lines with the exception of commercial property where there was an absence of large losses.

The main feature in Europe was the continuing improvement in the Netherlands, where there was an underwriting profit for the nine months of £4.7m. This was only partially offset by an overall underwriting loss in the rest of Europe.

In "Other Overseas" there was a mixed experience in the third quarter, including losses due to hurricane damage in the Caribbean, but there was still an overall profit at the end of nine months.

**Associated Companies**

A considerable part of the increase in the "Share of Associated Companies' profit" is due to the inclusion this year of Aachen and Munich as an associated company following the increase in our shareholding to 20%.



# Royal Insurance



**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
**BELL'S**

**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days**

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and are the last prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the index of 150 industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated to cover the period of non-publication.











